



Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: August 2025 (information current as of 8/14/25)

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.

August 14	Michigan Natural Resources Commission, Gaylord, 9am (nrc@michigan.gov)
August 15	Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council, 8:30am (517-582-3220)
August 20	Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee, 2pm (517-284-6135)
August 21	Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, Munising, 6pm (906-226-1331)
August 21	Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup, 1pm (517-331-6219)
August 22	Michigan Furbearer Forum, 10am, Little Bear East Arena, St. Ignace (517-243-5813)
August 23	Michigan Bear Forum, 10am, Little Bear East Arena, St. Ignace (517-243-5813)
August 25	Board of Foresters, 3pm (989-370-9557)
August 26	Sault Ste. Marie Forest Management Unit Open House, 3-6pm, Sault Ste. Marie Customer Service Center
September 9	Shingleton Forest Management Unit Open House, 3-6pm, Shingleton/Cusino Field Office
September 10	Equine Trails Subcommittee, 1pm (517-331-6219)
September 11	Michigan Natural Resources Commission, Lansing, 9am (nrc@michigan.gov)
September 19	Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council, 10am (517-582-3220)
September 23	Trails Advisory Council, 1pm (517-331-6219)
September 29	Board of Foresters, 3pm (906-458-6965)
September 30	Newberry Forest Management Unit Open House, 3-6pm, Newberry Customer Service Center

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](#)

Sundays	Tahquamenon Falls State Park - Nature Prayer Service (through September)
August 19	Michigan Iron Industry Museum – A Tale of Two Paternalisms
Sept 5-7	Van Riper State Park - Harvest Fest Weekend
Sept 12-14	Van Riper State Park - Harvest Fest Weekend
Sept 19-20	Wells State Park - Harvest Festival Spooktacular
Sept 19-20	Fayette Historic State Park – Paranormal Event
Sept 27	Brimley State Park - Harvest Fest
Sept 27	Tahquamenon Falls State Park - Harvest Festival

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](#)

- Michigan DNR has stocked 18.9 million fish so far in 2025 (8/11/25)
- DNR to hold oil and gas lease auction Oct. 21 (8/8/25)
- Over 140 miles of Michigan streams reconnected in grant project (8/8/25)
- Michigan Bear Forum, Furtaker User Group meetings set for August (8/7/25)
- Heads up! It's time to look for signs of the invasive Asian long horned beetle (8/7/25)
- Ready to ride? Free ORV Weekend Aug. 16-17 (8/6/25)
- Apply for Michigan's \$100,000 tree planting grant program (8/5/25)
- DNR to host family-friendly open house Aug. 14 at Newberry Customer Service Center (8/1/25)
- DNR News: Meteor showers, habitat help, owl hikes and more (7/29/25)
- Forestry, history, parks and more on agenda for DNR's August meetings (7/28/25)

Grant Contacts

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

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

Western UPCAC Update

The **Western UP Citizens Advisory Council** met on July 24, in person, at the newly constructed Lake Superior Sportsman's Club indoor range and conference facility, adjacent to the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park in Ontonagon. The club partnered with the Michigan DNR to create the \$4 million facility. The project was funded in part by a federal grant through Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, also known as the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act. Sportsman Club members also fundraised \$50,000 toward the new build. Meeting agenda topics included a cormorant control update, proposed walleye regulation collaboration, review of resolution responses, outlook of state park projects in the western UP, an update on the DNRs wolf abundance trail camera survey and moose research project, along with updates on the Keweenaw Heartlands project and latest forest health issues. Additional business included reports from various DNR division staff, old business items and subcommittee reports.

A **Joint UP Citizens Advisory Councils** meeting, including both the Western UP and Eastern UP groups, will be held on Wednesday, October 8 in Houghton at the Rosza Center on the MTU campus beginning at 3:00pm Eastern.

More information on both the Western and Eastern CACs can be found at www.michigan.gov/upcac.

July NRC Meeting Recap – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met on the West Campus of Lansing Community College on Thursday, July 10.

Natural Resources Deputy Shannon Lott – sitting in for Director Scott Bowen – approved:

- [The results of the May 1, 2025 oil and gas lease auction on state-managed public lands.](#)
- [The Generally Accepted Operation Practices for Sport Shooting Ranges.](#)
- Six land transactions. Details can be found [linked in the NRC agenda.](#)

Committee of the Whole, Director's Report

Steve Lenart with the Fisheries Division gave a [presentation on whitefish](#). Whitefish are found in all the Great Lakes. They live for a long time, spawn annually and are economically and culturally important to commercial and tribal fishers. Harvest of whitefish was relatively low in the 1970s, began to rise after sea lamprey control was implemented, and has been declining over the past two decades because invasive quagga mussels have disrupted the Great Lakes food web. Invasive mussels have affected all of the Great Lakes but have hit whitefish populations particularly hard. Regulation changes won't solve the problem, Steve said. Rather, support for research and monitoring remains critical. We can also experiment with rearing and stocking of whitefish and continue to support efforts to find a solution to invasive mussels.

Gary Jones from the Marketing and Outreach Division gave a [presentation on the Generally Accepted Operation Practices for shooting ranges](#). State law requires the DNR to review and adopt these practices for shooting ranges every five years. For shooting range owners and operators, following these guidelines protects them from nuisance lawsuits related to noise. By statute, the operating practices reference the National Rifle Association's "The Range and Source Book, A Guide to Planning and Construction." While the DNR operates shooting ranges, it does not have any regulatory role where other shooting ranges in the state are concerned and does not enforce the Generally Accepted Operation Practices.

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

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.
- If you would like further information or would like to address the Commission, please contact 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).

July Legislative Updates – Chris Semrinec, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

HB 4641 – Modifies Dark Sky Preserve Designation – Rep. Brixie: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow for Dark Sky Preserves in the Upper Peninsula.

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

HB 4672 & 4673 – Creates Gold Star Family Exemption for Recreation Passport – Rep. Steele & Rep. Markkanen: This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to exempt Gold Star Family license plates from payment of the Recreation Passport fee for entry into state parks and recreation areas and designated state boating access sites.

- 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.

HB 4694 & 4695 – Amends the Recreational Authorities Act – Rep. Markkanen: This bill would amend the Recreational Authorities Act to expand local control over public forest areas.

- 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 408 – Remove Need for CPL in Certain Situations – Sen. Hoytenga: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to remove the requirements for a CPL on game bird hunting preserve. This is a part of a larger package of bills to remove requirements for CPL all together.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary and Safety.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this Legislation.

SB 446 – Creates Recreation Passport Exemption – Sen. McBroom: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to exempt municipal license plates from payment of the Recreation Passport fee for entry into state parks and recreation areas and designated state boating access sites.

- This bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resource and Agriculture.
- The Administration has not yet 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

- *Academy of Natural Resources:* DNR completed year 17 teaching educators how to incorporate Michigan ecology and conservation principals into their teaching plans with 50 teachers participating. Law, FRD, Wildlife and Fisheries all pitched in to conduct the “Forests, Fields, and Finns” class. ANR North took place at MTU’s field campus at the Ford Center the week of August 4.
- *Interpretive Center Improvements:* Porcupine Mountains Visitor Center renovation nearing completion. Other construction Projects continue to progress at the Eddy Center in Waterloo State Recreation Area, Gillette Visitor Center at Hoffmaster State Park and at the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery Visitor Center. A new pavilion will be installed on Belle Isle for use primarily as a landing spot for schools in the Nature Awaits program, and Archery / pellet gun ranges are the planned for Yankee Springs, Bay City State Park and Waterloo.
- *Stepping Stones:* In the last few months, we have worked with 53 community organizations and have conducted nature-based outdoor programming for over 14,000 individuals (especially youth) through the Stepping Stones Outreach program.
- *Nature Awaits:* Even before teachers have returned to the classroom, we have 5,977 students from 209 classrooms registered for fall Nature Awaits field trips. Students will pour into our state parks soon! Marketing efforts for Nature Awaits through direct contacts with teachers and administrators, paid social focusing on educators, and gas stations television and Disney/Hulu+ in areas with low participation starts up again at the beginning of August.
- *Hunters Feeding Michigan:* The program continues to provide high-protein and nutritious meals to Michiganders across the state. Our partnership with the Food Bank Council of Michigan allows for the donated venison to be distributed to all 83 counties. Since October 1, 2024, over 110,000lbs (about 440,000 servings) of ground venison has been processed. In addition to processed venison, the HFM program successfully hosted the inaugural HFM Food Drive (July 14-July 18, 2025) that took place at all the DNR Customer Service Centers across the state. The HFM Food Drive allowed local DNR staff to connect and build positive relationships in their community by accepting non-perishable food items. All donated food items were donated locally to various shelters and pantries. The HFM food drive provided 1,422lbs of food to those in need.
- *Social Media Marketing:* We are currently running a female angler campaign on Meta and Pinterest to drive potential anglers to resources like Family Friendly Fishing Waters, licensing information and Where to Fish pages. Currently, we have more than 200,000 impressions on Meta and 35,000 on Pinterest, with a clickthrough rate that is slightly below average for similar campaigns. We will continue to modify and optimize the campaign to improve those results.
- *Shark Week in Michigan:* DNR capitalized on the Discovery Channel’s ever-popular “Shark Week” by doing its own version – “Sturgeon Week” – to highlight successes in conservation, fueled by license dollars and partnerships.
- *GovDelivery:* MOD staff is conducting a GovDelivery list cleanup to ensure we are offering the most relevant email news topics for our 1 million plus subscribers, and to make the posting process less cumbersome for staff who use the system to communicate with our customers.
- *Recreation Search Going Strong:* The search engine optimization improvements on the new Recreation Search are showing strong results. Since late June, the site has consistently drawn around 45,000 visitors per day, with peak traffic over 50,000 on July 16.

- **DNR Website:** Staff managing the main DNR website and associated websites are beginning the first wave of chatbot testing. As part of the testing process, we are asking the bot questions, making sure it is pulling accurate answers and, when we find inaccurate or incomplete answers, editing website content to provide better answers. This first wave will continue through Labor Day, with the chatbot expected to be live at the end of the year.
- **Range Activities:** Echo Point opened, as staffed range, on June 27. Construction started for berm and shooting structure rehabilitation at Island Lake. Shooting bench installation completed at Barry Shooting Range.
- **License Sales:** Staff coordinated testing for customer and internal mobile applications, ahead of a scheduled platform change. This work was in addition to license sales system (MiCO) vendor coordination, solving 39 problems related to stock orders, failed jobs, user access, and digest updates, including the May auto-renewal process which ran successfully.

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

- The 26-week long Conservation Officer Academy #13 which began on January 5 graduated on July 3. The three new officers that are assigned to District 2 (D2) are currently in their first step of field training and are doing well.
- D2 officers are still busy enforcing ORV and Boating laws and are starting to transition to fall activities.

District 2 Bi-Weekly Report 5/25/2025-6/7/2025

- **CO Steve Butzin** assisted the MSP on a traffic accident in Masonville Township. Two vehicles hit head on causing serious injuries and one fatality. CO Butzin assisted with traffic control for over five hours while the scene was documented, and the vehicles and debris were removed from the roadway.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a complaint of a camper left on state land in a remote area of Schoolcraft County. Upon arrival, CO Freeborn recognized the camper from last fall where he arrested a subject with multiple outstanding warrants. CO Freeborn was unable to locate the owner and started the abandoned vehicle process to get the camper removed.
- **CO Scott Pankow and Corporal (Cpl.) Todd Sumbera** received a tip of individuals taking over-limits of smallmouth bass. CO Pankow and Cpl. Sumbera contacted three individuals that had been staying at a resort for a week. They were advised all three had caught their limit of smallmouth bass for six days except one day they were one fish short. The three individuals were in possession of 89 small mouth bass between the three of them. All 89 smallmouth bass were seized, and all three individuals were cited for take/possess over-limit of bass.

District 2 Bi-Weekly Report 6/8/2025-6/21/205

- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint of an individual taking waterfowl during the closed season in Au Train Township. CO Butzin investigated the complaint and discovered that an individual had shot a 1911 pistol several times at geese on a private beach. The firearm was seized, and a report is being submitted to the Alger County District Court. Violations included take waterfowl during the closed season, several counts of safety zone violations, and take waterfowl with a single projectile/lead.
- **CO Scott Pankow** was patrolling the St. Mary's River when he observed an individual fishing from a kayak. CO Pankow approached the individual to check for a fishing license. Upon further inspection the individual was unable to provide a PFD, and a citation was issued for the violation.
- **COs Scott Pankow and Mike Olesen** completed a dozen marine livery inspections in Chippewa County.

District 2 Bi-Weekly Report 6/22/2025-7/5/2025

- While on routine patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn** received a call from local dispatch of a subject in the process of trying to harm himself. CO Freeborn responded with Manistique Public Safety as well as the Michigan State Police (MSP). CO Freeborn and an MSP trooper made contact and were able to prevent further injury. The subject was then transported to the local hospital by public safety. The subject is expected to make a full recovery.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a complaint about subjects at a local state forest campground not paying for their site. CO Freeborn located the subjects who agreed to pay for the missing days.
- **CO Andrea Dani** received a report of a vandalized dock in Alger County. An unknown subject attempted to move the Au Train Bay dock, breaking welds in the dock. The dock is currently unusable and has been removed from the launch. The matter is under investigation.
- **COs Mike Olesen and Andrea Dani** assisted Recreational Safety, Education, & Enforcement staff at the Chippewa County Shooting Association for the Michigan Youth Sportsman Competition with hunter education scenarios in which students were tasked with identifying violations in three hunting and trapping scenarios.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was patrolling Au Train Lake when he observed a pontoon with two occupants who were both fishing. CO Maki approached the vessel and asked to see their fishing licenses. One subject was able to provide a fishing license

and the other stated she did not have one. CO Maki took enforcement action for fishing without a license before clearing the scene.

- **COs Scott Pankow and Justin Vinson** were working marine patrol on the Fourth of July when they observed a boat pulling a tube without a spotter. CO Vinson cited the individual for towing a tube/skier without a spotter.
- **CO Scott Pankow** patrolled near the Cedarville area and observed a boat operating with an expired registration and towing a wakeboard within 100 feet of docks. CO Pankow cited the operator of the watercraft for towing within 100 feet of a dock, and a verbal warning was given for the expired registration.
- **COs Scott Pankow and Micheal Olesen** assisted the Chippewa County Sheriff Department, MSP, and United States Coast Guard (USCG) with security for the annual Engineer’s Day event. The event allows the public the opportunity to tour and walk the Soo Locks.
- 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.

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

Important Season Dates

- 8/1 Crow season re-opens (open dates are 8/1–9/30 and 2/1–3/31)
- 8/1 May apply for Reserved Waterfowl hunts
- 8/10 May place bear blinds in Upper Peninsula
- 8/13 May place bear blinds in Lower Peninsula
- 8/15 May purchase Fall Turkey permit
- 8/15 Deadline for UP Antlerless Access Permit applications (also Reserved Deer Hunts)
- 8/16-17 Free ORV weekend
- 8/28 Deadline to apply for Reserved Waterfowl
- 8/26 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 on state land.
- 9/2 Drawing Results for UP Antlerless Access & Reserved Deer posted online
- 9/8 Leftover Deer Access Permits & Leftover Reserved Hunts on sale at 10am
- 9/6 Sturgeon opens on the Boundary Waters (closes 9/30)
- 9/10 Bear hunting begins in the UP
- 9/13-14 Liberty Hunt for deer, see pgs. 6 and 7
- 9/13 Bear hunting opens in Lower Peninsula units (No dogs opening weekend; bait only)

NEWBERRY DNR CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Bring the entire family for a fun afternoon at your local DNR office in Newberry! Learn about resources available to you and visit interactive booths to learn about Michigan wildlife, fisheries, local State Parks, wildland firefighting, and more! Check out the new mass timber DNR building and view a historical display of the area by local historian, Sterling McGinn.

FREE ENTRY

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 14TH, 2025
NOON-4PM**

Coloring Contest!
Color the back side of this page and return it to the Newberry DNR Office to be entered in a random drawing for a birdhouse! Coloring pages will be on display during the open house event and must be received by **Friday August 8th** to be entered into the drawing.
Open to all ages!
Name: _____
Phone Number: _____

EVENT DETAILS

- Face painting & kids games
- Meet Smokey the Bear!
- View local historian Sterling McGinn's historical display in the Superior Room
- Visit a mock campsite & learn how to set up a tent
- Representatives from local State Parks, Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District & Three Shores Cisma
- Newberry Fire Department & Luce County Sheriff
- Meet DNR staff, wildland firefighters, & Conservation Officers
- Check out the new mass timber building
- Learn about furs, skulls, & tracks
- Kettle Corn Express food truck on site!
- Prizes and freebies!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 906-293-5131, EXTENSION: 0
NEWBERRY DNR CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER
5666 STATE HWY M-123, NEWBERRY, MI 49868

- 9/15 Small Game Opener (Rabbit, Hare, Ruffed Grouse, Fox/Gray/Black Squirrel)
- 9/15 Turkey season TMU opens for Units I and M (closes Nov 14)
- 9/15 Woodcock opener (through 10/29)
- 9/15 Turtle seasons close (Snappers and Softshell)
- 9/15-1/1/26 Can place bait for Deer in UP (for information, see pg. 56-58)
- 9/20-21 Early Antlerless Firearm Deer season (see digest p. 6)
- 9/20-21 Youth Waterfowl Hunt – includes Veterans and Active-Duty personnel
- 9/23 Lower Peninsula Bear firearm seasons end (Note: closes four days prior for bait hunters)
- 9/27 Duck Hunting opens in the North Zone (closes Nov 23 reopens Nov 29 & 30)
- 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 expires
- 10/1 Early Archery Deer season opens (through 11/14)
- 10/1 Raccoon Hunting and Trapping opens statewide
- 10/3-9 Archery Bear season open in LP units
- 10/4 Duck Hunting opens in the Middle Zone (closes Nov 30 reopens Dec 13 & 14)
- 10/10 Pheasant opens in Zone 1, also Sharp Tailed Grouse (through 10/31)
- 10/18 Duck Hunting opener in the South Zone (closes Dec 14 reopens Dec 27 & 28)
- 10/15 Fox and Coyote trapping open statewide (closes Mar 1 2026)
- 10/15 Badger trapping open in Zone 1 & 2
- 10/15 Gray & Red Fox hunting opens
- 10/16 Independence Hunt for deer opens (through 19, see pg 6)
- 10/20 Pheasant season open in Zone 2 & 3 (through 11/14)
- 10/20 Quail season opens, close date 11/14 (See small game digest-pg 4 select counties)
- 10/25 Beaver/Otter **, Muskrat & Mink trapping open in U.P. ** for MI Residents
- 10/26 Late bear seasons close in the UP
- 10/29 Woodcock season closes
- 10/31 Fishing seasons close on Type A and Type D trout lakes.
- 10/31 LAST DAY TO ACQUIRE BOBCAT KILL TAGS (UP Bobcat Trapping opens next day)

Fisheries Division-Eastern UP – Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Biologist

Field Management Update

1. Fisheries Technician Wayne Heinzman completed Stormwater Operator and Soil Erosion and Sediment Control certifications.
2. Newberry field crew completed aquatic invasive species early detection monitoring on the Upper Saint Marys River. The crew surveying the river using the electrofishing boat for 27 sites. This survey is a collaborative effort with Bay Mills Indian Community for the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
3. Newberry field crew began conducting habitat assessments on Status and Trends lakes in August (i.e., Avery Lake, Monocle Lake, Indian Lake, and Stanley Lake). Habitat assessments include shoreline development counts, aquatic vegetation identification, water quality evaluation, and limnological profile of dissolved oxygen and temperature.
4. Field crews began stream sampling August 1st. Surveys on Status and Trends and discretionary waters will include Davenport Creek, Naomikong Creek, North Branch Valley Spur, West Branch Sage River, Little Murphy Creek, Hurricane River, Pendills Creek, Roxbury Creek, and Little Two Hearted River.
5. Moss Lake Rearing Pond for walleye harvest wrapped up mid-July. This was the longest harvest for the pond since its inception of operations (25+ years). A total of 100,498 spring fingerling walleye were stocked in the eastern Upper Peninsula and northern Green Bay. The pond return was 50.2% which was above average for Moss Lake Rearing Pond. Thanks to the Lake Superior Management Unit field staff for assisting with egg take, rearing, harvest, and stocking activities.
6. Lake Superior Management Unit fisheries staff along with the local wildlife biologist led an education and outreach program for the Sault Youth Organization at the Eckerman Trout Pond. Staff conducted an electrofishing demonstration, macroinvertebrate identification, fish biology, and wildlife ecology and biology. Roughly 35 kids from Saint Ignace, Manistique, and Cedarville attended.
7. Lake Superior Management Unit dam maintenance and visual inspections were completed in July. The Lake Superior Management Unit owns and operates several dams in the eastern Upper Peninsula, many of which serve as trout or coolwater fisheries.

8. Staff met onsite at the McAlpine Pond Dam with Forest Resources Division, Huron Pines, and the contractor to discuss on-the-ground planning for the removal of the dam. Dam removal is scheduled for mid-September and is expected to take about 2 weeks total.
9. Kings Pond Dam (East Branch Fox River) was drawn down in June to replace the stoplogs in the riser. A video inspection of the inlet pipe, riser pipe, and outlet pipe was completed and reviewed by a DNR engineer. Due to advanced rusting and decay of the corrugated metal piping, the engineer recommended either replacement of the piping or removal of the dam. The unit is currently exploring options to determine the next step for the dam infrastructure. In the meantime, the impoundment will remain in a lowered status.
10. Fisheries staff have participated in Compartment Review meetings for the Shingleton, Sault, Newberry, and Gwinn units. Pre-review meetings were held with staff from each division providing guidance and recommendations for timber management prescriptions.
11. Lake Superior Management Unit staff met with the Big Bay Sportsman's Club in Big Bay in July to discuss a walleye regulation proposal for Lake Independence.
12. A public meeting was held at the Ishpeming Township Hall to discuss a walleye regulation proposal for Teal Lake and Lake Independence. The meeting was attended by 13 members of the public and TV19 Marquette.
13. The H-58 bridge replacement project on the Sucker River is on schedule to be completed by the end of September. Footers for the new arch culvert have been poured and are curing. The contractor will begin instream work the week of August 18th with the installation of crossvanes.

Fish Production Section Update

Thompson State Fish Hatchery

1. Capital improvement funding was provided to the State Fish Hatcheries to make infrastructure repairs and biosecurity improvements on deferred facility maintenance. As projects get through complete design and bids come in, the estimates provided from the design consultants and construction managers were too low. A fair number of hatchery projects will likely not be funded around the State. On the plus side these facilities will have stamped designs for future opportunities. As it relates to Thompson State Fish Hatchery, all projects that were to get started or bid out have been put on hold.
2. The yearling muskellunge harvested total was 1,141 from the overwintered pond, and the fish were harvested in mid-June. The yearlings were 11.3" in total length, tagged, and were stocked out downstate in lakes that will be utilized as broodstock lakes in the future.
3. Spring fingerling walleye were harvested in June from the coolwater ponds. Approximately 70,400 fish were harvested and stocked around Upper Peninsula inland waters.
4. Muskellunge will be transferred from Wolf Lake SFH to Thompson SFH in mid-August. There are fewer this year due to limited available eggs this spring.
5. Steelhead are in rearing tanks with enough predicted to meet spring 2026 stocking goals.
6. The hatchery staff have been working on maintenance and repairs of rearing ponds, concrete rearing tanks, fish stocking trucks, hatchery equipment and buildings.

Marquette State Fish Hatchery

1. All production fingerlings have been moved outside and will be reared until their release next spring.
2. Spring stocking has concluded after stocking 120,000 lake trout, 70,000 brook trout, and 190,000 splake.
3. Three Arctic grayling egg takes were held in late April/early May resulting in about 800,000 eggs being transferred to our tribal partners to be placed in in-stream incubators in the Maple, Boardman and Manistee Rivers. Reports have been good thus far with hatching occurring shortly after transfer and fry observed around the in-stream incubators.
4. A construction project to replace the brood isolation building and update the HVAC system for the main hatchery has started. Because of this, the hatchery will be closed to the public until the project is completed. The project is scheduled to be completed by early October.
5. The hatchery is fully staffed once again after recent employee retirements, promotions, and departures.

Fisheries Research Section Update

1. The RV Char is out on Lake Superior running the summer lake trout survey this month.
2. Nearshore sampling in lakes Michigan and Superior for fish community monitoring began August 11th.
3. The RV Osmerid was put through its final sea trial (to Isle Royale and back) and performed as expected. The boat is now ready for regular duty as part of the Marquette Fisheries Research Section fleet.
4. Fisheries Technician Lydia Doerr spent time at Isle Royale riding along with creel clerks and helping them with lake trout morphotype identification.

5. Troy Zorn attended the joint AFS North Central Division Esocid, Walleye, and Centrarchid Tech Committees meeting on Beaver Island.
6. Research staff attended the Lake Superior Technical Committee meeting in Marquette.
7. Design work on a proposed vessel base is beginning with Edgewater Resources hired to develop a conceptual plan.
8. Sample processing is ongoing in the lab, aging structures are being prepped for analysis, lake trout diets stomachs are being examined for diet analysis, etc.

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

Project Name: Trail 8 – 3 Bridges	Project Name: Haywire Grade – 11 Bridges
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
8/25 Update: Project delayed till mid-to-late August.	8/25 Update: Waiting on approval and NEPA process from the USFS.
Project Name: Grass Creek Bridge Snow Trail #8	Project Name: Betsy River Bridge Snow Trail #452
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
8/25 Update: Waiting on funding.	8/25 Update: Waiting on funding.
Project Name: Sunrise Grade Snow Trail #8 LFRHW Crossing	Project Name: Trail #49 – 12 Mile/Gaines Hwy
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
8/25 Update: Funding needed.	8/25 Update: Last update. Ongoing beaver control and club will try and maintain the trail as best as possible.

Wildlife Division: Dave Lemmien, Northern Michigan Regional Manager & Karen Section, Field Operations Manager, Eastern UP

Projects and Outreach

- Staff conducted goose banding and worked together with partners to band 350 geese across the entire UP. The UP quota was 300 so staff went above and beyond!
- Staff completed an extremely successful spring wolf trapping season where staff place gps collars on the trapped wolves. Staff were able to trap 17 animals this spring. These collared animals provide the needed data to build the suitability index to compare to the camera survey.
- Research team continue to monitor the collared moose and provided an update at the last EUPCAC meeting.
- WLD staff completed their annual bear bait index survey to monitor species presence/abundance across Drummond island.
- Three Shores CISMA, Soo Tribe and TNC 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.
- 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 (FRD): Scott Lakosky, Eastern UP

Timber Sales

- Newberry Forest Management Unit (FMU)
 - 12 sales for bid this past 2 months. 5 sales received bids, 7 sales went no bid with 2 of them later being sold for minimum.
 - Lowland sales or sales with high pulp volumes continue to be challenging to sell.
 - Sales with upland pine selling with competition ranging from 1 - 3 bidders per sale with bid prices ranging from 5 – 18% over minimum.
 - Timber sale harvesting activity has been somewhat below average for this time of year when compared to historic activity.
 - 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 FMU
 - There were three bid openings in June and July. 3 sales were sold, and 4 sales went no bid. Three of the no bid sales were cedar research project sales which are going to be difficult to sell in today's market conditions.
 - The number of active timber sales has picked up slightly across the unit as loggers started to come back north from working on ice storm salvage.
 - Staff are working diligently to complete FY25 timber sale prep with a lot of marking taking place in the last few months.
- Shingleton FMU
 - 2 sales bid since last report, 1 sale went no bid (winter sale).
 - Logging activity has been slow, producers claim markets are open but prices are stagnated. Additionally, many loggers claim they cannot recruit operators.

Forest Inventory

- Public comment periods and public open houses for are ongoing or upcoming for forest management units in the eastern UP (EUP) to gain public input on management activities that impact state land in 2027. Public comments can be submitted through the Mi State Forest Application: <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/forestry/public-input> or at the local Open House:
 - Sault Ste. Marie FMU public comment period open until August 26. Open house is August 26th from 3-6pm at the Sault Ste. Marie Customer Service Center.
 - Shingleton FMU public comment period open until September 9th. Open house is September 9th from 3-6pm at the Shingleton/Cusino Field Office.
 - Newberry FMU public comment period will be open from August 30th – September 30th. Open house is September 30th from 3-6pm at the Newberry Customer Service Center.

Cultivation

- Newberry FMU
 - 93 acres of scarification completed (3 sites).
 - 82 acres of roller chopping completed (2 sites).
 - 170 acres of trenching completed (8 sites).
 - Aerial spraying completed on approximately 400 acres to reduce hardwood competition in pine plantation sites.
- Sault FMU
 - 353 acres of trenching, scarification, roller chopping, and mastication completed on SOM lands within the unit.

- Helicopter site prep spraying has been completed on the unit.
- Shingleton FMU: Trenching work completed on the unit for the year with scarification work ongoing.

Fire

- Newberry FMU
 - 1 staff to Manitoba – Out of State (OOS) fire.
 - 1 staff to Colorado – OOS fire.
 - 1 staff to Washington State – OOS fire.
 - 3 statistical fires in Newberry Unit during this period, all kept to less than 1 acre in size.
 - Daily staffing for fire as needed.
 - Summer preventative maintenance and inspections (PMIs) & readiness completed.
 - 1 training for 16 persons for pipeline use on fire completed, hosted by Newberry.
 - 2 touch a truck prevention events with estimated 600 contacts.
 - 4th of July parades outreach with estimated 2500 contacts.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
 - 2 fire officers went to Manitoba assisting in wildfire suppression.
 - 1 fire officer went to Montana on a fire assignment.
 - 1 forester went to California on a fire assignment.
 - Smokey Bear presentation on wildfire prevention at a summer camp in Sault Ste. Marie.
 - One fire officer was approved for engine boss qualification
- Shingleton FMU: Several staff were dispatched to Manitoba, Montana and California.

Road & Bridge

- Newberry FMU:
 - South Charcoal Grade - Graveled and graded bad sections. Also replaced a crushed equalization culvert.
 - Camp 6 Road - Graded portions of road.
 - Camp 7 Road - Place stoned stone water bars and rip rap in ditches leading to Linton Creek. Replaced plugged equalization culvert and rip rapped ends.
 - Unnamed road near Homestead Lake - Replaced plugged equalization culvert.
 - Graded parking area along CR415 and Tahquamenon River.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU:
 - Culvert replacement on the Carp River Truck Trail.
 - Removed two portable bridges.
 - The pre-work meeting was held with the contractor who will be removing the McAlpine Pond dam. This project is slated to begin in mid-September.

Facilities: Newberry Unit disposed of a propane powered generator and propane bulk tank through MiBid process.

Land Use

- Both Sault and Newberry Units working with landowners to resolve several non-timber trespass cases within their units.
- Newberry unit also reviewing applications about various uses, easements and land transactions on state land.

Commercial Forest

- District Service Forester
 - Field inspected new CF enrollments for 2025.
 - Field inspections on CF land for compliance.
 - Reviewing forest management plans (FMP) for owners.
 - Reviewing CF withdrawal applications.
 - Working with Jennifer Burnham on Conservation Easement monitoring.
 - Continued correspondence to forestry consultants and landowners.

Ice Storm

- 1 Newberry fire officer went to the northern lower peninsula (NLP) to work on the continued efforts of ice storm damage cleanup within DNR trails and campgrounds.
- 2 Shingleton land management staff went to NLP to assist on salvage timber sale prep.

Training

- 5 Sault fireline-qualified staff completed MI Firefighter Training Council ATV training: 3 from Forest Resources Division, 1 from Facilities & Outreach Division, and 1 from Wildlife Division.
- 2 Sault fire officers completed Incident Common System/Emergency Operations Center Interface with the Michigan State Police.
- 1 Newberry fire staff attended a seminar, Managing Workforce of the Future.
- 1 Newberry fire staff attended the Luce County Preparedness Committee meeting.
- Other trainings that included various FRD staff from across the district: Out of State Fire Dispatch Refresher, Biodiversity Training, Pipeline and Pumps Fire Refresher, Invasive Species Training.

Vacancies/New Hires

- Forester Anthony Ciaramitaro transferred to Shingleton from Newberry unit.
- Shingleton Fire Officer Cory Mallory promoted to Shingleton fire supervisor.
- Newberry unit vacancies for forester, forest technician and 1 forester on extended leave.

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

Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island

- Brimley utility improvement (waterline/storm water replacement): Campground and day use opened June 19th. Punchlist remains to be completed with some of the items scheduled for after October 1.
- DeTour Harbor Surge Protection System Improvements: The Harbor was able to offer electricity on June 20. Delays were caused by new defective components and getting final electrical inspection.
- Lime Island Solar System Replacement/Upgrade: Project started in spring 2025 with substantial completion on June 13.
- DeTour filled a vacant seasonal park ranger position in June.
- Brimley is short staffed for summer positions and has one ranger out on parental leave
- Since the opening on June 19, Brimley has been full every weekend with only a few vacancies during the weekdays.
- DeTour State Harbor: Boating traffic is comparable to 2024 so far.
- Lime Island Recreation Area: Cabin rentals and boating traffic have been comparable to 2024 to date.
- State forest campgrounds (SFCG) have been seeing normal use for this time of year.

Indian Lake State Park & Palms Book State Park

- Indian Lake State Park's new toilet shower building has received bids and awarded a contract to the successful contractor.
- Electrical replacement for the contact station at Palms Book State Park has been completed.
- Consultants have submitted plans for the new drain fields and awaiting review from EGLE.
- Seul Choix keeper house and boat house shingle replacement will be advertised for bid in SIGMA shortly.
- Some summer staff will be departing within the next week or two.
- Indian Lake State Park South Unit closed August 11 for construction of new toilet building.
- The Graymont Corporation is donating one solar light to Mueller Township which will be installed at Suel Choix boating access site (BAS). They are also working with Schoolcraft County to have one solar light installed at the Palms Book BAS site as well.

Muskallonge Lake State Park

- Construction of the new accessible boardwalk has been completed at the Lake Superior overlook day use and is now open to the public.
- The campground road paving project is underway and at about 50% completion. This project is currently on schedule with an anticipated completion date of mid-September. The campground remains closed during this construction.
- Design and engineering (90%) is in progress for the wastewater/water distribution upgrades.
- All positions are currently filled.
- Muskallonge Lake State Park campground is currently closed due to road paving construction.
- With the modern campground closed, the park explorer guide has been extending out to state forest campgrounds for outreach and programming. This has been well received in the rustic campgrounds with positive feedback.
- State forest campgrounds remain busy with attendance slightly up from average.

Newberry Field Office

- Vault toilet replacements at Strongs ORV/snowmobile trailhead, Mouth of the Two-Heart SFCG, and Maxton Bay BAS.
- Painting SFCG registration stations and fee pipes.
- Rehab boot brush station at Milakokia Lake SFCG.
- Working with HR on Lead Ranger position vacancy.

- Big Knob and Milakokia Lake SFCG's have had the highest use so far this season.
- Bass Lake SFCG had a group who worked for OnX maps and were working on updating mapping in the area.

Tahquamenon Falls State Park

- Lower Falls Portage Campground Electrical Improvements: The project has been completed, and the campground has been open since June 13.
- Upper Falls Brink Overlook: Continues to be under construction and behind schedule. Park staff are hopeful the project will wrap up before winter. 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: Complete and has been open to the public since May 10.
- Lower Falls Water Distribution Project: Complete pending final punch list work. The Hemlock campground opened for the season on June 27.
- Alyxandria Hauglie accepted the vacant seasonal ranger position and began her duties on July 21.
- Many of our summer park worker staff will soon be leaving for college.
- The park hosted the Two-Hearted Marathon in late June and two legs of the Great Lakes Relay, which was anticipated to be held in Lower Michigan this year but were moved to the UP due to the ice storm.
- The Tahqua-Trail run was held on August 9, and the annual Tahquamenon Wilderness Canoe Race will be held on September 13.
- A new event will also be coming this year on September 20. Yooper Running will be hosting the inaugural "Falls-to-Falls" race, which will feature a round-trip race beginning and ending at the Upper Falls.
- All park campgrounds have been full every night since early July. Day use traffic is down a bit from previous seasons.
- Road construction on M-123 has caused some traffic delays in the area.
- A black bear who has become accustomed to people to some degree has been raiding dumpsters during daylight. We've been attempting to scare him away with some different noise-related tactics. Hopefully he'll retreat as the berries ripen.

Straits State Park/Mackinac Island State Harbor/Father Marquette

- Straits State Park has a design-build project underway for solar energy which will power the north campground and headquarters.
- The Father Marquette (Heart of Great Turtle Island) learnings common building and pow wow grounds upgrade project is underway.
- Mackinac Island Harbor will be getting 40 new caps to replace failing caps on the cement retaining wall.
- Unable to fill one temporary position at Mackinac Island Harbor.
- Mackinac Island Harbor was the finish for both the Port Huron to Mackinac and Chicago to Mackinac races again. The Harbor had 200 sail boats until their departures on Wednesdays after each race.
- Labor Day bridge walk will be here soon, and we will have staff available several hours earlier to sell passports and control parking.
- September bridge crossing events are back for this coming year; the Straits will be busy.
- Despite the slow start, the campground picked up filling most Thursdays-Sunday.
- Mackinac Island Harbor boat traffic has picked up for the summer and lots of day boats are showing up more recently.

Executive Division: John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer

- I am looking for DNR summer and fall events to photograph across the Upper Peninsula. Events could be anything from construction project completions to park camper events or local celebrations that include the DNR. If something like this is happening this summer or fall, please contact me at pepinj@michigan.gov or 906-226-1352.