



Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: December 2023 (information current as of 12/13/23)

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



Meetings/Events/Press Releases

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.

December 14	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, 9am, Lansing (nrc@michigan.gov)
December 20	Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, 6pm, Virtual (call 906-226-1331)
January 11	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, 9am, Lansing (nrc@michigan.gov)
January 24	Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, 6pm, Virtual (call 906-226-1331)

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](#)

January 6-7	Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Tahquamenon Country Sled Dog Race
January 13	Straits State Park – Stomp the Park or Shoes Lantern Lit Hike
January 27	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Guided Snowshoe Hike & Lantern-Lit Trail
February 3	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Guided Snowshoe Hike & Lantern-Lit Trail
February 3	Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Guided Snowshoe Hike & Lantern-Lit Snowshoeing/Skiing
February 9-11	Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center – Cross-Country Skiing & Snowshoe Getaway
February 9-11	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Midwest Telefest 2024
February 10	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Guided Snowshoe Hike & Lantern-Lit Trail
February 10	Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Guided Snowshoe Hike & Lantern-Lit Snowshoeing/Skiing
February 17	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Guided Snowshoe Hike & Lantern-Lit Trail
February 17	Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Guided Snowshoe Hike & Lantern-Lit Snowshoeing/Skiing
February 24	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Guided Snowshoe Hike & Lantern-Lit Trail
February 24	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Porkies Winter Carnival – 2024 Snowburst
February 24	Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Guided Snowshoe Hike & Lantern-Lit Snowshoeing/Skiing

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- DNR News: Cool jobs, enchanting owls, fat-tire biking, NRC in Lansing (12/12/23)
- #MiStateParks: Porkies ski, community grants, winter getaways & more (12/8/23)
- Urban and Community Forestry News (12/8/23)
- NFWF grants aid 73,000-acre conservation effort in Michigan Highlands (12/7/23)
- Gov. Whitmer announces nearly \$2 million in grants for park and trail improvement and development (12/6/23)
- DNR News: Snowbirds, wild Christmas trees, volunteer days and more (12/6/23)
- Natural Resources Commission meets Dec. 14 in Lansing; agenda online (12/6/23)
- Gov. Whitmer Announces Funding for Park Upgrades in Nine Michigan Counties (12/5/23)
- Tune in to 'Ask the DNR' live Thursday on WNMU-TV13 (12/5/23)
- December hunting and trapping opportunities (12/5/23)
- Can we ask you something? (12/4/23)
- DNR reminds hunters of legal firearms for muzzleloader season (12/1/23)
- Muzzleloading deer season starts today – what you need to know (12/1/23)
- Showcasing the DNR: Trail reopened today in Houghton County (11/30/23)
- Online survey: Share your state park experience with us! (11/29/23)
- Dec. 6 public meeting on Douglass Houghton Falls scenic site development (11/29/23)

Grant Contacts

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

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|---|---|
| ▪ Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant | Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, 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 |
| ▪ Aquatic Habitat Grant | Chip Kosloski, 517-284-5965, kosloskic3@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Fisheries Habitat Grant Program | Chip Kosloski, 517-284-5965, kosloskic3@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Michigan Invasive Species Grant | Erin Campbell, 269-300-9698, campbelle6@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Wildlife Habitat Grant | Clay Buchanan, 517-614-0918, buchanenc1@michigan.gov |
| ▪ U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant | Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, scullonh@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Forestry Grants | https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/forestry |
| ▪ Land & Water Conservation Fund | Christie Bayus, 517-242-8737, bayusc@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Waterways Program Grants | Linnea Dawson, 517-290-2200, dawsonl@michigan.gov |

Western UPCAC Update

The last meeting of both councils was the Joint UP Citizens' Advisory Council meeting held in Escanaba on October 11th. The next meeting of the [Western UP CAC](#) will be Wednesday, January 24th, held virtually via Zoom.

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

December NRC Meeting

The Natural Resources Commission will be meeting on December 14th on the West Campus of Lansing Community College. To access the meeting agenda: [Natural Resource Commission Meetings](#). The summary will be available after the meeting.

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).

Division Updates

Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Chief

- **Sportsmen Against Hunger:** Donation events during the early days of regular firearm deer season were very successful again this year. Huge interest was generated through department social channels, reaching nearly 200,000 people. A few visitors even referenced the Facebook post while donating deer.
- **Social Media Milestone:** An Instagram reel reached nearly 1.9 million views, our largest number of views to date. We were able to capitalize on a trend that combined with our audience interest in deer hunting.
- **New ORV and Snowmobile Webpages** are live just in time for the 2024-2025 snowmobile season!
- **Google Analytics:** Now running on the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app to provide detailed reports that will help us make meaningful improvements for our customers. We also have eCommerce analytics working on eLicense that will allow us to see the dollar amounts tied to items purchased throughout the system.
- **License Sales:** License Sales and Customer Service help desk handled more than 320 customer phone calls from retail agents on Nov. 14, the busiest license sales day of the year. More than 180,000 deer licenses were purchased that day. The phone call volume is in addition to the hundreds of email responses that were sent and the guidance provided to DNR customer service staff across the state. Help desk staff also worked the weekend of Nov. 11 – 12 to return customer voicemail messages and emails. The entire License Sales team represented the DNR with true professionalism.
- **Editing and Filming for Warden’s Season 13** is in process including ride-a-longs with LED for the firearm deer opener, an in-depth episode on waterfowl hunting at Nayanquing Point, and deer donation events for Sportsmen Against Hunger.
- **Deer License Sales:** Licensing system performed perfectly during the opening, handling higher number of license sales than we have seen in the past 5 years. At one point on November 14, we were selling more than 7,000 licenses per hour.
- **Salmon in the Classroom:** Salmon in the Classroom (SIC) workshops for new teachers have been conducted statewide and all eggs have been distributed. SIC has 298 schools participating this year.



Finance & Operations: Becky Randazzo, Eastern UP

- New Newberry Customer Service Center Update: Drone photo from 11/27/23 shows progress on the foundation of the office project.
- Customer Service Survey: Finance Operation Division (FOD) staff statewide have been sending out customer service surveys. Surveys went out to 1,432 randomly selected outdoor enthusiasts looking for feedback on the services we provide at our Customer Service Centers and some Field Offices. If anyone would like to participate, we have the surveys available in our offices until January 1st. Surveys are also available online.



Who wants your feedback? We do!

Please take this short survey to tell us what you think about DNR customer service.

[Take the survey ►](#)

Season Dates for December 2023 & January 2024 (See guides on pages noted for more detail)

- 12/1 Late Archery Deer season opens (12/1 through 1/1) – no crossbows in the northern UP DMUs without a disability permit
- 12/1 Ruffed Grouse season re-opens (12/1 through 1/1)
- 12/1 Late pheasant hunt opens (12/1 through 1/1, see digest p. 69 for open areas)
- 12/1 Pike & Muskie Spearing season opens (see p. 16-17)
- 12/1 Muzzleloader Deer season opens (through 12/10)
- 12/1 Fisher and Marten trapping open (see Fur Digest pgs. 4 & 5 for areas)
- 12/9 Elk Season #2 opens (through 12/17)
- 12/10 Bobcat Trapping open for Units C, D, and G (closes 12/29)
- 12/10 Bobcat Trapping opens for Unit H (closes 12/20)
- 12/10 Fisher & Marten trapping close – pelts must be sealed by 12/13/23, see Fur Digest
- 12/11 Late Antlerless Firearm Deer season opens (through Jan. 1) – see p. 52 for areas
- 12/26 Bobcat Trapping closes in UP units
- 12/31 Bass season closes (possession)
- 12/31 Muskie (possession) closes in St. Clair, Detroit, and Boundary waters
- 12/31 Last day to apply for 2023 Pure Michigan Hunt
- 1/1 Can apply for Spring Turkey license; Bobcat hunting opens
- 1/1 Lake Trout & Splake open for N. Lake Huron and N. Lake Michigan – see p. 21 for limits
- 1/1 Late Season Pheasant closes (portions of Zone 3), and Ruffed Grouse season closes
- 1/1 Deer Archery season closes (exception – Wayne/Oakland/Macomb close Jan. 31)
- 1/5 Last day to register U.P. bobcats taken by trapping (Units A & B)
- 1/5 Last day for deer head submissions (1/7/24 if using a drop box)
- 1/11 Bobcat hunting closes in Unit H
- 1/20 Bobcat hunting closes in Unit G
- 1/22 2024 Pure Michigan Hunt drawing results posted

Wildlife Division: Dave Lemmien, UP Wildlife Supervisor (submitted by Kristie Sitar, Wildlife Biologist)

Fall Projects and Items

- Sharp-tailed grouse season ended on October 31st. This was the 14th year since the season re-opened in 2010. There were approximately 5,000 acres of Hunting Access Program lands available that provide public hunting access on private lands for sharptail hunting during the season. Early indicators and anecdotal reports suggest that hunters were out on HAP lands once again, and some hunters reported good success in seeing birds. Hunters come from all over Michigan and from other states to pursue sharptails in the far east UP. In 2021, 198 hunters reported over 1,900 observations and harvested 113 birds. In addition, woodcock numbers were reported to be spectacular in some areas of the east UP.
- Newberry staff partnered with Three Shores CISMA to treat ongoing invasive phragmites populations at the Blind Sucker Flooding and the Dollarville Flooding as well as a few other locations in Luce County. Steady progress is being made at these locations.
- DNR staff partnered with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and the Sault Saint Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to plant wild rice at several locations in the EUP in the fall of 2023 including Blind Sucker Flooding and Dollarville Flooding in Luce County, Black Creek Flooding in Mackinac County, and the Saint Mary's River system in Chippewa County. Wild rice is an important wildlife food and of high cultural and spiritual value to tribal members.
- Shingleton staff made infrastructure improvements at Rainey Wildlife Area near Manistique, last fall, replacing portions of an old failing boardwalk with a wider gravel pathway to increase access. The remaining portions will be completed in spring.
- The Sault office purchased a new tractor and implements to help maintain managed sites such as GEMs as well as to implement further habitat management projects.
- Outreach efforts:
 - The Wildlife Activity Trail at the Blind Sucker Flooding in Luce County is complete, and staff hosted a grand opening event in August last year that was well attended. Backpack kits are available to check out for use along the trail.
 - The Youth in the Outdoor survey is in its third year at the Newberry office. The purpose is to gather information about youth interests in outdoor pursuits and create opportunities to meet those needs. Participation in the survey has increased annually.

Deer

- The Deer Camp Survey is a cooperative effort between the DNR and numerous UP hunters for the 16-day regular firearm season. This is a voluntary survey where interested participants provide sighting and harvest information during the firearm season. The survey is used to monitor deer sightings, harvest, and hunter opinions. A report of the results is sent out to participants in mid- winter. Survey materials were sent out to approximately 477 camp contacts before the 2023 firearm season.
- Once winter settles in and deer migration has occurred, staff will begin the annual opportunistic winter deer track survey concentrating in and around Deer Wintering Complexes to indicate deer presence or absence in areas of the UP in an effort to continually monitor use of wintering areas.
- Winter Conditions: This winter has started off with relatively mild temperatures and light snowfall in much of the EUP. DNR staff monitor snow conditions weekly from early November through early May using a system called SNODAS (Snow Data Assimilation System). This allows staff to see winter snow fluctuations and have a measure for potential impacts of winter on deer and other species at the end of season.

- Staff found new ways to engage with deer hunters in this second year of mandatory harvest reporting when fewer hunters are coming into DNR offices to have their deer checked. Staff went to buck poles, encountered hunters in the woods, and hosted deer aging events to continue to engage with hunters.

Fisheries Division-Eastern UP – Neal Godby, Fisheries Biologist

- Great Lakes strain fall fingerling muskellunge were harvested from Thompson State Fish Hatchery and stocked in Dana Lake, Delta County (N=100) and Big Island Lake, Schoolcraft County (N=130) the first week of November. The fish averaged 9.0 inches in length.
- Progress continues to be made toward building a new lamprey barrier dam on the Manistique River, Schoolcraft County. A key property for the dam/berm site has recently been acquired by the state and there is one more key piece of property that needs to be acquired from Manistique Papers to complete the project footprint. The US Army Corp of Engineers will likely contract out the engineering design of the new dam and seek to award the contract by May 2024. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking funds to relocate the City of Manistique waterline off of the current dam and directional bore it below the river.
- NLHMU staff again surveyed the Little Rapids area of the St. Marys River in October and November 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. We are looking at the fish community there at different times of the year. During our November survey, we found Cisco (Lake Herring), an important native species using this habitat again.
- St. Ignace schools just came online with the Salmon in the Classroom Program. The tank and equipment were provided by Fred Waara Chapter of Trout Unlimited and was setup on November 1st. Chinook salmon eggs were delivered on November 28th. Students from the middle school and high school will be involved with rearing operations in the classroom. A spring release event will be scheduled in May at a nearby approved release location. Special thank you to Fred Waara Chapter for the assistance in obtaining the tank and equipment.
- Eastern Lake Superior Fisheries Managers met with the National Park Service to discuss a future project on Lowney Creek. There are a series of dams located on Lowney Creek and tributaries that have been in place for nearly 100 years. Before ownership was accepted by the National Park Service, these dams were built by the landowner for the purpose of waterfowl hunting and fishing. The dams have deteriorated over time and are no longer operational. Removal of these dams is being considered, but many steps need to be taken before any project design to decided. Lowney Creek serves as habitat for brook trout and other native species, as well as nursery habitat for Coho salmon.
- The Newberry field crew conducted netting surveys on four inland trout lakes in Luce County. Pretty Lake, Brockies Pond, Sid Lake, and Deer Lake. Pretty Lake is stocked annually with splake and biennially with walleye. Brockies Pond is stocked annually with yearling brook trout. Deer and Sid lakes are stocked biennially with yearling brook trout. These evaluations are used to understand the success of these stocking events and whether they should be continued or modified. Target species were captured in all surveys and data will be used when renewing and revising management prescriptions.
- Fisheries Managers attended the Forest Resources Division's Compartment Review Meetings across the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Fisheries Managers review and provide recommendations about best management practices around surface waters and prescriptions for timber management within Riparian Management Zones.
- Fisheries Managers attended the internal Biologist Conference in Gaylord. This conference invites all Fisheries Division Biologists and Managers to discuss statewide topics, data management, and regulation proposals. This conference is an annual meeting and a good opportunity to hear about work and projects from across the state.

- NLHMU and ELSMU staff attended the St. Marys River Fisheries Task Group meeting. This group includes representatives from federal (US & Canada), state and provincial, and tribal agencies, along with University representatives. Recent surveys of the river’s recreational fishery and fish community were discussed, along with other issues related to fisheries management in the 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: 20th Street Culvert	Project Name: Millecoquins River Bridge
Description: Engineer and replace 11 bridges	Description: Engineer and replace 3 bridges	Description: Replace concrete culverts	Description: Snowmobile bridge footing replacement
Trail Use: ORV/Snowmobile	Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use: Multi Use	Trail Use: Snowmobile
Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: 2023	Anticipated Completion: 2022
Q2: Plans for the 1 bridge replacement and redecking/widening of existing bridges have been submitted to the USFS for review.	Q2 Update: The Ionia culvert has been installed. Substantial completion meeting coming up. Waiting on the bridge delivery for the Beartrap crossing that will be installed in the spring/summer. Need more funding for the Melstrand crossing to start the bid process.	Q2 Update: Project completed. This will be the last update.	Q2 Update: Substantial completion in process. Contractor finishing punch list. Project is in the final completion paperwork stage.

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

The archery, firearm & muzzleloading seasons kept officers jumping along with trapping and waterfowl as you will see in some of the bi-weekly reports attached below with some interesting cases, and it’s not over yet! The two new officers who will be assigned to Mackinac and Chippewa Counties are progressing well and getting closer to the date when they will complete their field training process and be working in the district, which we will all be happy for. Below are some of the activities that officers have been involved in since our last CAC.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 10-15-2023

- **COs Michael Evink and Sgt. Mark Zitnik** participated in the NRC meeting at Bay College in Delta County. The COs provided security for the event.
- **COs Michael Evink and Robert Freeborn** are actively working ongoing snagging complaints in the Manistique River and Thompson Creek.
- **COs Steve Butzin, Rob Freeborn, and Cpl Mike Hammill** instructed a field day hunter safety course in Escanaba. The course led to 25 students successfully completing their hunter safety requirements. The students were provided their hunter safety certificates and expressed their eagerness to begin hunting.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** hosted two hunter education classes in Alger County. Shortly after departing the Chatham class, CO Dani observed a vehicle parked along a roadway that appeared to be disabled. CO Dani contacted the driver, who stated all was well and that they were waiting for a ride because they were locked out of the vehicle. CO Dani recognized this location as an odd place to park a vehicle as it is a decently busy county road surrounded by private property. The occupants were visibly nervous and walked around to the driver side of the officer’s patrol truck into the roadway. CO Dani then observed they were trying to block her line of view to the opposite ditch, where she ultimately located an untagged, partially field-dressed 3-point buck. CO Maki, Alger County Sheriff Deputy King, and MSP Trooper Yeagley responded to the scene and assisted as they heard the radio traffic and recognized the name of the driver as a known felon. A consented search of the vehicle led to open intoxicants, controlled substance, multiple spotlights, a crossbow set to fire, and more. The driver admitted he shot the deer with his crossbow. He was booked at the Alger County Jail on an unrelated warrant and the vehicle was impounded. A report will be submitted to the Alger County Prosecutor for the illegally taken deer (taken while trespassing) failure to immediately tag a deer and recreational trespass and other additional violations.

- **CO Andrea Dani** assisted with a Becoming an Outdoors Woman event in Washtenaw County. CO Dani participated as a mentor to first-time female hunters. The students were taught basic hunting laws, scouting techniques, equipment safety, how to track a deer, how to field dress deer, shot placement, and were given adequate range time to become comfortable with crossbows. CO Dani had the privilege of being paired with a student who harvested her first deer on the first morning of the hunting portion of the event, which happened to be a beautiful 10-point buck. In total, seven deer were harvested, two bucks and five does, which will aid in the population management on Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation land.
- **CO Brandon Maki** responded to reports of a house that was intentionally set on fire. CO Maki arrived on scene and found the remnants of a house that was still smoldering from the fire. CO Maki took pictures of the remains and found pieces of fiberglass and foam board insulation in the burnt pile. CO Maki went to the owner's residence and spoke to him. The owner of the property stated he had just bought it and was tearing down the old place. He stated the township gave him permission to burn the structure down. CO Maki asked him what exactly the township told him, and he replied that he was told he did not need a permit to demolish the structure. CO Maki pointed out that demolition and burning are not the same. CO Maki gave a warning for unlawful disposal of solid waste but cited him for open burning of household waste/materials.
- **CO Brandon Maki** arrived on Northern Michigan Universities campus with Wildlife biologist Heather Shaw and Fisheries Biologist John Bauman and answered questions live on Ask the DNR.
- **CO Justin Vinson** located three beaver traps while on patrol of the Tahquamenon River near Newberry. All the traps had the required owner identification attached and CO Vinson tracked down the young juvenile who was the owner of the traps. The young trapper told CO Vinson that he had loaned his traps out to a friend who is a tribal member. CO Vinson educated both juveniles on the importance of making sure the individual that sets the traps has their identification attached to the traps.
- **CO Mike Olesen** patrolled several Hunter Access Program (HAP) lands on the opening morning of Sharp-tail grouse season in Chippewa County. CO Olesen reported activity on all most all of the HAP lands with several successful hunters.
- **Lt. Skip Hagy, Sgts. Calvin Smith and Mark Zitnik** attended the groundbreaking ceremony that was held in Newberry celebrating the new Customer Service Center that is scheduled to open to the public in the fall of 2024.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 10-30-2023

- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol in Garden Township when he conducted a traffic stop and discovered that the driver was operating an unregistered vehicle. The driver had two outstanding warrants and was in possession of a possible methamphetamine or fentanyl substance. The individual was arrested and lodged in the Delta County jail.
- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint of two individual's bough cutting on state owned and Lyme Timber Great Lakes owned lands. CO Butzin went to the location of the complaint for several days before contacting the individuals in the act of bough cutting. Foresters from both the state and Lyme Great Lakes Timber will be accessing the damage to the trees and a report will be submitted to the Delta County Prosecutor requesting charges of unlawful cutting of state-owned trees for the cutting that occurred on state land and malicious destruction of private property for the cutting that occurred on Lyme Great Lakes Timber land. Restitution for the trees will also be requested.
- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint of a minor hunting without supervision. Upon further investigation it was discovered that a minor was hunting without supervision, possessed an uncased firearm upon an ORV, operated an ORV without supervision, and without a helmet or ORV permit also had taken waterfowl without a state waterfowl license. A report is being submitted to the Schoolcraft County Court requesting charges on the parents of the minor for allowing a minor to hunt and operate an ORV without supervision.
- **CO Brandon Maki** observed an individual operating an ORV behind a berm to run bait back to his deer stand. The individual was informed that passing over or around berms is illegal and that they are placed there to keep motor vehicles out. CO Maki issued the individual a citation for operating in a closed area.
- **Sgt. Mark Zitnik, COs Andrea Dani, and Brandon Maki** taught two hunter safety field days. The participants were eager to learn and brought a lot of energy to the hands-on portion of the course. All participants passed the course and received their hunter safety certificates.
- **CO Brandon Maki** attended a preliminary hearing in reference to a felon in possession of firearms case he was involved in which occurred in Chippewa County.
- **CO Michael Evink** responded to a complaint where a 10 pt white-tailed buck deer was stuck in a muddy bog just off of US-2. Once on scene CO Evink observed people trying to pull the buck out of the mud. Additionally, he observed a bolt sticking out of the back of the deer. One of the individuals attempting to pull the deer out stated he shot it because it was previously injured. CO Evink is continuing to investigate the incident.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Mike Olesen** taught two different Hunter Safety Classes in both Luce and Chippewa Counties. All 46 participants passed the class and received their hunter safety certificate.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 11-13-2023

- **CO Brandon Maki** was patrolling down Trout Lake Rd. when he observed a side by side operating without a 2023 ORV trail sticker. CO Maki pulled alongside the ORV and had a conversation with them about the sticker and when it is required. The operator of the machine stated it was brand new and telling by the odometer the operator was telling the truth. CO Maki issued a warning for failing to license the ORV and told them to get it licensed as soon as possible. The operator stated his brother was just ahead of him in another brand-new side by side. CO Maki drove up the road and caught up with the other side by side. Upon approaching, CO Maki also observed that the side by side was carrying more passengers than it was designed for and that one of the passengers had an opened alcoholic beverage. CO Maki notified the individuals of not having a trail sticker, too many people on the machine, and the open intoxicants. CO Maki issued a citation for failing to license the ORV and gave warnings for the open intoxicants and transporting passengers when the machine was not designed to do so. The operator and passengers thanked CO Maki before he cleared the scene.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol in Garden Township when he encountered an individual cutting pine tree boughs on state land. Upon further investigation it was discovered that this individual had received a citation for this same violation several days prior. When asked why he continued to cut tree boughs on state land the individual informed the officer he was attempting to make money to pay his last citation. This individual was cited for damaging/destroying trees on state land, no proof of vehicle insurance, and operate a motor vehicle with an expired registration.
- While on routine patrol, **Cpl. Chris Lynch and CO Robert Freeborn** observed a vehicle approaching them on a 2-track. It was discovered the driver had a loaded 12-gauge shotgun in the back seat. The driver was also found to be driving on a revoked license. Citations were issued for the violations.
- **CO Justin Vinson** responded to a trespass and safety zone violation in Chippewa County. The investigation is ongoing.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 11-27-2023

- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** contacted a hunter at a blind known to have an over limit of bait. The hunter admitted the blind, which had no identifying information, had been on that spot on public property for several years without removal. The hunter was cited for the over limit of bait and warned that his ID information needed to be on the blind and it had to be removed by March 1st.
- While walking to a hunting location known to have an over limit of bait, **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** located another blind owned and occupied by the same hunter. Officers observed an over limit of bait at this hunting location and that the blind was not labeled with identifying information. The hunter was cited for the over limit of bait and warned for not properly labeling the blind.
- **CO Andrea Dani** checked a hunter who only had the restricted portion of his combo license left. The juvenile hunter stated he shot a doe with his first license during the firearm deer season. CO Dani interviewed the juvenile's parents and found that he fell in the 10–16-year-old category, and had also taken hunter safety the year before, making him ineligible to take an antlerless deer on a combo license during firearm deer season, which he had done with his father's permission. A report will be submitted to the Alger County Prosecutor's Office.
- On opening day of firearm deer season, **COs Andrea Dani and Brandon Maki** arrived near a blind with an excessive amount of bait. COs began walking to the blind just after first light and contacted a hunter. CO Dani issued a citation for exceeding 2 gallons of bait and advised the hunter that his permanent blind needs to be removed at the end of the season.
- On opening day of firearm deer season, **COs Andrea Dani and Brandon Maki** received information of multiple over baits on private property. COs arrived at the property and contacted a woman at the residence who stated her father, husband, and son were all hunting on the property. COs left the house and went searching for the over baits and hunters. COs located one blind and contacted the hunter. The hunter was not wearing hunter orange, he was hunting over an excessive amount of bait, and he did not have a valid deer license. CO Maki issued a citation for hunting without a license and gave 2 warnings for the other violations. COs advised he needed to pick up the bait and get a deer license before resuming his hunt. COs cleared in search of the other over baits nearby. COs located 2 other blinds in proximity. Both blinds overlooked excessive amounts of bait and appeared to have been left in a hurry as jackets, gloves, and even a wallet were left in the blind. COs went back to the residence and spoke with the woman who stated her family was hunting. COs asked where her husband and son were, and she replied if they weren't in their blinds they would be out still hunting. The COs didn't believe her response, but she was adamant they were not in the house. CO Maki went back to the blinds where they had been hunting while CO Dani stayed in proximity of the house. CO Dani could hear the wife talking to the husband. COs contacted the husband and wife and called them out on their lie. Eventually it was discovered that the son was hiding upstairs, and both the father and son admitted to hunting without a license and showed us where they had hidden their firearms. A report is being written and will be submitted to the Alger County Prosecutor's Office.
- **CO Brandon Maki** received a complaint that an individual had shot 2 deer and only had a single deer license. CO Maki attempted to contact the individual and met with her husband at the residence. The husband stated she was at work and would be home later in the evening. The husband stated she had shot a deer the day before and showed him the 3-point white-tailed

deer head without a tag attached. The husband handed CO Maki his wife's tag and showed him around the property showing him there was only one deer. CO Maki stated he would be back later to speak with his wife. Later in the evening COs Maki and Dani arrived at the suspects residence and spoke with the suspect. The suspect stated she had only shot one deer and she shot it on November 18th a little after noon. CO Maki asked why the tag wasn't on the deer and she stated she had forgotten. CO Maki asked her if she shot the deer and went and bought the license after, she was forthcoming and stated that was correct. The firearm used was seized along with the venison. A report will be submitted to the Alger County Prosecutor's Office.

- While on patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn** observed an area of Commercial Forest land that was damaged from subjects cutting pine boughs. Upon further investigation, a possible suspect was determined along with the vehicle. After conducting surveillance, CO Freeborn observed the suspect vehicle enter the area. CO Freeborn was able to make contact with the subjects who had a pickup load of boughs freshly cut from the same area as before. After interviewing the suspects, a full confession was given. The pine boughs were taken as evidence and the landowner was made aware of the situation. A report will be submitted to the prosecutor and restitution will be sought for the value of the boughs taken.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** observed a pickup coming at him on a 2 track. As CO Freeborn pulled off the road to make room, he observed an untagged buck in the truck bed as it went by. CO Freeborn turned around on the vehicle and it immediately pulled over. The driver exited the vehicle with a kill tag in hand. The subject advised seeing a DNR truck just reminded him to tag his buck. CO Freeborn explained the buck needed to be tagged immediately. A citation was issued for failing to immediately tag the deer.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a complaint from dispatch of a hunter who shot a spike with a combination tag. The hunter was located and admitted the violation. The deer was seized, and a citation was issued for the violation.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a complaint of a hunter who shot a collard coyote. Upon arriving on the scene and locating the animal, it was determined that it was indeed a collard wolf. After an interview by CO Freeborn and again when back at his downstate residence by CO Paul Fox, the suspect made a full confession of the incident. The firearm was seized, and a report will be submitted to the prosecutor's office.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** checked a bough cutter on National Forest land. When checking his permit and name through dispatch, it was determined that he had 2 outstanding misdemeanor warrants. After confirming they were valid, the subject was placed under arrest and brought to the local jail.
- **COs Michael Evink and Sgt. Mark Zitnik** began the opening day of deer season by responding to a Hunter Harassment complaint on State Land. The Complainant believed his blind had been destroyed by another hunter who then set up close to his location. The COs made contact with the suspect. He did not have any knowledge of the second hunter's "spot", however, he was not wearing hunter orange, failed to have his name and address on his blind, and had too much bait. He was issued tickets for the blind and hunter orange violations and warned for the over bait.
- **COs Michael Evink and Sgt. Mark Zitnik** were patrolling the Germfask area when they observed an ORV cross the road. The operator was not wearing a helmet and had an uncased gun on the ORV. The COs made contact and found the firearm was loaded with seven rounds and there was no ORV sticker. The operator was issued a ticket for having a loaded weapon on an ORV. He was issued warnings for the helmet and ORV sticker.
- **Sgt. Mark Zitnik and CO Mike Evink** were patrolling commercial forest lands when they drove to a blind that was located on a tight two-track. The COs made contact with a 16-year-old hunter and his father. Neither were wearing Hunter Orange. A ticket was issued to the father for the Hunter Orange.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was able to contact a fair number of hunters in the woods. Unfortunately, it seemed that hunter success was down from last year, but many were thankful to be in the woods. Several violations were encountered for individuals operating ORVs cross country, failing to immediately validate kill tags, loaning and borrowing licenses, and recreational trespass. Several citations were issued because of the violations.
- **CO Justin Vinson** patrolled southern Mackinac County for hunting activity on opening day of firearm deer season with several hunters being contacted. Most common violations witnessed were hunting from a ground blind or tree stand without name and address, and over limit of bait. Citations were issued.
- **CO Justin Vinson** investigated a complaint from a hunter who had his ground blind stolen. The complainant provided CO Vinson with the make and model of the blind, as well as a trail cam picture of the rear half of an ATV. CO Vinson investigated the location where the blind was taken and followed ATV tracks down a pipeline that ultimately led to a group of hunting camps. Officer Vinson returned to one of the hunting camps the following night recognizing the ATV. When asked about the blind the group said they found it on the pipeline, and it had blown away in the wind. CO Vinson was able to return the blind to the complainant.
- **CO Mike Olesen** patrolled Chippewa County for firearm opener. CO Olesen focused on illegal blinds on state land that were established prior to September 1st or never removed from state land after the previous hunting season. CO Olesen contacted many hunters and issued 4 citations for hunting out of an illegal blind.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol during firearm deer season opener when he stopped at a local buck pole. While looking at the deer hanging, he observed a "spike" (2-point white-tailed deer) tagged with a combination tag (Meant for deer with at least 3

points on one side). Contact with the hunter was made and a citation was issued for the APR (Antler Point Restriction) violation. The deer was also seized and donated to a local family.

- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** were checking the status of deer hunters staying at local resorts. Contact was made with a group of hunters who were packing up to leave. It was determined that one hunter had shot a doe and tagged it with a combination tag. A citation was issued for possession of an antlerless deer without a proper license. The deer was seized and donated to a local family.
- **COs Mike Evink and Cole VanOosten** responded to a complaint of a deer shot at night in Schoolcraft County. The complainant gave very detailed and accurate reports of hearing a shot at approximately 10:30 pm and then watching a man leave his residence and track the deer to their property line. CO Evink and the complainant tracked the blood trail and located the dead deer a short distance away on the complainant's property. It was determined that the deer had been shot poorly in the back hips and likely suffered for an undue amount of time before expiring. CO VanOosten conducted time of death calculations on the animal and determined that the animal's death was consistent with the witness' observation, and the wound sustained by the gunshot. The blood trail was backtracked from the dead deer to a neighboring residence where a large bait pile was observed. Contact was made with the suspect who had previously been convicted for a similar offense and was revoked from all hunting. The suspect initially denied the allegations but eventually admitted to shooting the deer after hours without a license. The firearm was seized, and the shell casing was recovered as evidence. A necropsy of the animal recovered the small caliber bullet used by the suspect. The deer was donated to a local family and charges were requested by the Schoolcraft County Prosecutor's office for taking a deer without a license, taking a deer outside of legal hunting hours, hunting over a bait >2 gallons and hunting while revoked.
- **CO VanOosten** was working during the thanksgiving holiday when he encountered a waterfowl hunter braving the cold wintery weather. Contact was made and it was determined that the man did not have his licenses on his person. While checking on the radio a short distance away to confirm the man had the proper license, CO VanOosten observed a duck approaching away from the hunter's view. CO VanOosten got down and got the man's attention to tell him he had a duck approaching. The man was able to grab his gun and make an excellent shot on the duck, his first duck of the day. It was determined that the man did have the proper licenses and a warning was given for not having his waterfowl licenses on his person.

Forest Resources Division: Scott Lakosky, Eastern UP Supervisor

Timber Sales

- **Newberry Forest Management Unit**
 - Timber markets have been tough. Newberry offered 5 sales for bid this past 2 months – 2 lowland conifer and 3 hardwood sales. All sales received no bids. Since bid offering, 3 have been picked up for minimum price.
 - Timber sale harvesting activity has been slightly below average for this time of year. As the seasons change, some loggers are beginning to prep for moving into winter sales.
- **Shingleton Management Unit**
 - No sales offered since the last update. GNA sales are very active in all types. State sales are slow especially in the south part of the unit. Softwood markets seem to be the worst which does not bode well for the upcoming winter season. Producers are inquiring about market extensions for sales expiring in June to better plan for winter.
- **Sault Ste Marie Management Unit**
 - 3 sales have been bid, 2 of them went no bid. The one sale that sold was a nice red pine sale with class A access. The 2 no bids were smaller pulpwood sales.
 - 2 more bid openings are scheduled for early/mid-December where a total of 6 sales will be offered.
 - Markets are challenging in the far east EUP. Loggers are struggling to find a place to bring their wood to.
 - Loggers are starting to look at their winter work and make plans for moving into winter jobs.
 - The Sault Ste Marie Management Unit was involved in the external Forest Certification Audit in October. Staff did a great job designing a tour to give the FSC and SFI auditors a good representative sample of the management activities in the unit. The only finding of the statewide audit was a minor Corrective Action Request related to logger safety standards.

Forest Inventory

- Field work has begun for the 2026 Year of Entry (YOE) cycle.
- Dates are being set in 2024 for the Open House and Compartment Review meetings for 2026 YOE.
- Several staff attended the new forester training at the RAM Center during the first week of December.

Fire

- Staffing and Fire Response
 - The Newberry Management Unit responded to a 12-acre fire in October.
 - The Sault Ste Marie Unit responded to a ¼ acre wildfire in October in Potaganissing Bay. One structure was lost in that fire.
 - Units are doing post season inspection and maintenance of equipment and taking them out of service for the winter.
 - Several staff have fitness test qualified in preparation for the upcoming fire season. Remaining staff needing fitness testing will be scheduled in the coming weeks.
 - Newberry hosted an Experiment Station Fire Equipment Showcase for fire staff from other areas and states.
 - 1 Forest Fire Officer went on assignment to a fire in Oregon as a Heavy Equipment Boss Trainee. He was able to complete all necessary tasks to be considered for certification in the position.
- Prescribed Burns: No burns conducted in the EUP since last report.
- Training
 - Fire staff attended L-381 – Incident Leadership course.
 - 1 Forest Fire Officer completed the Fit Leader Academy.
 - New staff attended New Employee Orientation training.
 - Facilitative instructor training was held in Traverse City. EUP Staff assisted as instructors and attended as students.
 - Planning efforts continue for the upcoming Fire Training Academy to be held in early January.
- Prevention: Forest Fire Officers from Newberry participated in Fire Prevention Days at both Tahquamenon Area Schools and Three Lakes Academy

Road and Bridge

- Given the relatively dry fall conditions, units received fewer road complaints than normal.
- The Stanley Lake Bridge construction in northern Schoolcraft County is complete.
- Stream crossing capital outlay projects along the Camp 7 Road and Charcoal Grade in Luce County are being wrapped up for the year. There will be some final work on these projects to complete come spring of 2024.
- There were a few holes filled/leveled and culverts unplugged on the Charcoal Grade in Luce County.
- A temporary portable bridge over Dawson Creek used to access a timber sale in Luce County was removed in early October.

Facilities

- Construction on the new fire shop in Manistique is nearing completion with plans to move in over the winter.
- Flooring replacement project is moving forward at the Shingleton Office.
- Construction continues on the Newberry Customer Service Center.

Land Use

- Shingleton
 - 1 use permit issued for pipeline maintenance. There seems to be significant right of way maintenance operations happening in the area involving utilities. Use permits are not required in most cases.
 - One land acquisition approved at the recent NRC meeting adding 120 acres in Schoolcraft County northwest of Seney.

Vacancies

- Filled Vacancies
 - Unit Manager for the Sault Ste Marie Management Unit – Josh Brinks
 - East UP Inventory and Planning Specialist – Lester Livermore
- In Process to Fill
 - 1 Forest Fire Officer at the Sault Ste Marie Office
 - 2 Forest Fire Officers at the Seney Field Office

- 1 Forester and 1 Forest Technician in the Soo Unit
- 3 Foresters in the Newberry Unit
- 3 Student Assistants (Forestry) across the East UP
- Other
 - Nick Wheeler, Forest Fire Officer from the Seney Field Office, is in a working out of class assignment as a Forest Technician at the Seney Field office.
 - Staff attended MTU Career Day to recruit new forestry staff and summer interns.

Commercial Forest

- There is an increased number of management plans coming in from consultants due to a busy summer field season.
- The number of phone calls related to hunting on CF land increased ahead of the firearm deer season.
- The number of calls related to purchasing CF land is increasing.
- Writing inspection reports for CF violations discovered during field visits.
- Met with industry foresters and managers to discuss CF.
- Inspected timber sales on the Great Lakes Forest Conservation Easement for compliance.

Snowmobile

- Pre-season grant sponsor and staff meetings are complete.
- Pre-season trail inspections and grant administration paperwork has been completed in preparation for the upcoming season.

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

Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island

- Lime Island AST Cleaning & Hazardous Material Assessment: Received preliminary cost estimates from a professional, which was well above available funds. It was determined to put the project on hold for the time being and to strategize the path forward.
- Lime Island Harbor Upgrade Project: At last check, this project has not been closed out.
- Brimley Utility Improvement (waterline/storm water replacement): Pre-bid meeting was held on 11/13/23 with bids due mid-December & with potential construction starting after Labor Day 2024.
- Brimley Restroom/Shower BLDG Project: Punchlist items have all been taken care of.
- Lime Island Cultural Resource plan project: A consultant was chosen and the consultation team spent the first week of October on the Island to complete field work.
- Brimley Underground Primary Electric/Transformer Replacement (Design/Build): The contract was awarded, and construction will start late winter with project completion by May 2024.
- DeTour Harbor Surge Protection System Improvements: Project kick-off meeting was held on November 21, 2023. This project is anticipating a mid-to-late February issue for bid and a construction timeline of Labor Day 2024/Memorial Day 2025.
- All units short-term workers were done for the season by October 14.
- DeTour/Lime Seasonal Ranger: Position will post in the Spring.
- Brimley PI Ranger: Hired Kelly Edwards who started at the end of August.
- Brimley: Restroom/shower buildings closed for the season on October 15.
- DeTour State Harbor: The Harbor closed for the season on October 1.
- Lime Island Recreation Area: Closed for the season just after Labor Day weekend.
- DeTour & Munuscong State Forest Campground (SFCG): Munuscong has seen a busy fall with goose, duck, grouse & deer hunters.
- DeTour and Brimley staff have been busy winterizing buildings and equipment. Rangers have also been completing hazard tree inspections, chipping, stumping, and pulling maintenance on park equipment.
- Brimley staff have spent time mowing and brushing Algonquin Pathway getting ready to the cross-country ski season. The trail was groomed for the first time on December 1.
- A new well and handpump has been installed at DeTour SFCG. DeTour staff completed the cement pad earlier this Fall.

- Park and Harbor staff have been planning projects & purchasing needs for this winter and next season.

Fayette Historic State Park

- Townsite: Phase 500 of the furnace wall replacement, phase 500 of the townhall beam replacement.
- Park: Blowing & mulching leaves, replaced vault toilet doors in campground, phase 500 plans review of the Visitor Center ADA upgrades, Phase 500 plans review all park drain field replacement.
- BAS: Skid piers pulled at all sites. Replacing all doors at the access sites.
- Aaron Thill working out of class as Supervisor.
- Randy Brown transferred to P.H. Hoeft State Park.
- Fall Fest was held October 7. Camping was at 100% capacity and the lodge was at 100% capacity for the weekend.
- Lantern Hike/Snowshoe/XC Ski will be held Saturday January 27 from 6pm-8pm.
- Camp nights: October-465 nights. Previous 3-year average was 501 nights.
- Lodge nights: October-15 nights. Previous 3-year average was 27 nights.

Indian Lake State Park & Palms Book State Park

- Indian lake and Palms Book improvement projects are on phase 400.
- General management plan for Indian Lake and Palms Book: Public meeting for comment held at the end November.
- Working with a volunteer group from the North Country Trail to get a temporary walkway over the Whitefish River located in Laughing Whitefish Falls State Park.
- The new frame and canopy have been installed on the raft at Palms Book State Park.
- Getting estimates on shingle replacement on the keeper's house at Seul Choix Lighthouse and for the well pit restoration.
- Getting estimates to repair a portion of the beach shelter cement floor.
- Phase #2 of the Indian lake shoreline restoration is scheduled to begin in mid-April.
- Seasonal Rangers are on their scheduled layoff.
- Some access points for contractors during the shoreline restoration have been identified and some lakeshore campsites have been closed because of the anticipated construction.
- Thanks goes out to the Manistique Lion's Club and Theresa Neal for installing a new educational sign at Palms Book State Park.

Muskallonge Lake State Park

- Construction of the West Campground toilet/shower building is in progress. Site earthwork preparation was completed in October and the footings were completed in November. Wall construction has started with the hopes of a roof being on the building by mid-December.
- A 50% design meeting has been scheduled in December for the new boardwalk to Lake Superior.
- Design and engineering are in progress for the sewage and water distribution upgrades.
- Ranger Hickmann is on seasonal furlough. Ranger Cottrell will go on seasonal furlough starting December 22.
- The Park will host the Tahquamenon Country Sled Dog Race again this year. The race is scheduled to take place the weekend of January 6-7.
- With the warmer, dry weather this fall state forest campground use lingered all the way through November with higher use numbers than average.

Straits State Park & Mackinac Island State Harbor

- Straits upper toilet shower buildings have punch list items yet to be done.
- Mackinac Island Harbor toilet shower building completed for use with some extra add on and punch list items yet to be completed.
- Campsite improvements have been ongoing in campground.
- Father Marquette lift station replacement project was awarded. Contractor has not started work yet.
- Father Marquette Memorial site was awarded a grant from the Melon foundation. With this grant, the project has the proper funding to move forward into the construction phase.
- Straits may have a forest recreation ranger position added in the new year.

- Straits will again be holding the Stomp the Park or Shoes lantern lit hike Saturday Jan 13.
- Campground was full most of the summer with Tuesdays and Wednesdays having a few openings.
- Upper campground opened July 20 and was full from that point on.
- SFCG was considerably up over last year. Could be due to the federal campgrounds being closed for the summer.

Tahquamenon Falls State Park

- Lower Falls Hemlock Campground Shower Building Replacement: The foundation has been completed with block work soon to follow. This project is slated to be substantially complete by June 2024.
- Lower Falls Portage Campground Electrical Improvements: Project is out for bid for construction which is slated to begin after Labor Day 2024 and be complete by June 2025. The project will provide much needed upgrades to the electrical service in that campground loop, including adding an additional 15 50-amp sites and providing each campsite with its own electrical service.
- Rivermouth Employee Shop Project: This project is also out for construction bids with the project slated to begin in the spring of 2024 and be completed by December 2024. This project will update/relocate the existing aged structure to a more convenient location and also provide staff at this stand-alone unit the tools to maintain the Rivermouth unit into the future.
- Upper Falls Brink Overlook: The project team is working through the design process now with the intent to advertise for construction bids in the spring of 2024, construction starting in the fall of 2024, and ending in the early summer of 2025. The existing stairway and deck structures will be eliminated and a new universally accessible ramped boardwalk will be built in its place in the same general location. A new viewing platform will be constructed to better utilize the viewing opportunities at the Upper Falls Brink. The Brink area may be closed to the public for a large part of this project.
- Theresa Neal, Park Interpreter, accepted the Northern Interpretive Manager position within Marketing & Outreach Division. Interviews are planned for mid-December to fill the vacated position at Tahquamenon Falls State Park.
- Seasonal staff have mostly been laid off for the season with the exception of a couple Senior Rangers who will be working with the Snowmobile Program this winter or Hemlock Woolly Adelgid & Asian Long Horned Beetle mapping/monitoring within the park under the stewardship program.
- The park will once again host events each Saturday in February in 2024. Guided Snowshoe hikes will be offered on Feb. 3,10,17,& 24 at 2pm. Lantern Lit Snowshoeing/skiing will be offered in the evenings on those dates from 6-8:30pm. Snowshoes are available to use on a first-come, first served basis at no charge and refreshments will be provided.
- The delayed onset of winter conditions has enabled Ranger staff to get more outdoor project work accomplished than normal so this winter.

