



Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

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

By [Justine Lofton | jlofton@mlive.com](mailto:jlofton@mlive.com)

MASONVILLE TOWNSHIP, MI – A new osprey nesting platform is standing tall in the Upper Peninsula near prime hunting waters and within easy view of birdwatchers, officials said.

The 30-foot-tall pole was recently installed near the mouths of the Rapid, Whitefish and Tacoosh rivers, which empty into Lake Michigan at Little Bay de Noc. Atop the pole is a square, metal platform with perching arms that extend nearly 3 feet off the corners, which serves as an ideal place for osprey pairs to build a nest.



A new osprey nesting platform was installed on March 1, 2023, near the mouth of the Rapid River in Delta County, Mich. Michigan Department of Natural Resources

This new nesting platform replaces a 30-year-old, worn out one that was situated nearby. Moving the platform about 300 yards will help avoid disturbances from vehicle, equipment and other wildlife. At the same time, it still provides viewing from the access road and boat launch parking lot, said Colter Lubben, a DNR wildlife technician at Escanaba.

The platform was built by Lubben, DNR wildlife biologist Joe Sage and USDA wildlife technician Kyle McGillviray using plans from the International Osprey Foundation. It was installed by Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association linemen Jon Conger and Justin Gieszer and apprentice lineman Riley Corrigan.

The location, which is in Delta County’s Masonville Township near a DNR boat launch, offers prime hunting habitat for ospreys, the only hawk species in North America that almost exclusively hunts fish.

The species’ nicknames include “fish hawk,” “river hawk” and “sea hawk” due to its hunting habits. They catch fish by plunging claws-first into the water.

Ospreys are recognizable by the elbow bend in their wings that gives them an M-shaped appearance in flight. They also have dark patches under their wings and a brown stripe across their faces. Ospreys can have a wingspan of almost 6 feet. Nesting pairs typically produce two to three chicks.



An osprey is shown sitting in its nest on the old nesting platform near the mouth of the Rapid River in Delta County, Michigan. The platform was replaced on March 1, 2023. Photo courtesy of Carol Schiltz via Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Decimated in the 1960s and 1970s by now-banned pesticides, ospreys were removed from Michigan's threatened species list in 2009. They are still endangered in some states and are federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.



Workers from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association pose together near the site of a new osprey nesting platform at the mouth of the Rapid River in Delta County. Pictured, from left to right, are Michigan Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist Joe Sage, DNR wildlife technician Colter Lubben, Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association linemen Jon Conger and Justin Gieszer and apprentice lineman Riley Corrigan. Michigan Department of Natural Resources

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.

- June 6 Forest Resources Division-Baraga Management Unit, Compartment Review (906-201-4688)
- June 8 Natural Resources Commission Meeting, 9am, Roscommon, 517-331-7792
- June 13 Accessibility Advisory Council, 9am, 517-284-5958
- June 13 Michigan Iron Industry Museum Board Meeting, 3pm, Negaunee, 906-475-7857
- June 13 Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, 6pm, Sault Ste. Marie, 906-226-1331
- June 14 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, 9am, 517-284-5954
- June 22 Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup, 10am, 517-331-6219
- June 23 Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council, 10am, 517-582-3220
- June 26 Coldwater Resources Steering Committee, 10:30am, 906-235-6191
- June 27 Trails Advisory Council, 1pm, 517-331-6219
- July 9 Forest Resources Division-Escanaba Management Unit, Public Comment Period Begins (906-789-8231)
- July 10 Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, 6pm, Baraga, 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](#)

- June 10 DNR Pocket Park—30th Annual Kids Fishing Day in Escanaba
- June 10-11 Free ORV Weekend / Free Fishing Weekend
- June 17 Fayette Historic State Park—Christmas in June
- June 17 Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park—Keweenaw Disc Golf Tour
- July 19 Straits State Park—National Wild Turkey Federation BB Gun Shoot

July 20	Palms Book State Park—National Wild Turkey Federation BB Gun Shoot
July 21-22	Wells State Park—Christmas in July
July 21	Palms Book State Park—National Wild Turkey Federation BB Gun Shoot
July 27-29	DNR Pocket Park—National Trappers Convention-UP State Fairgrounds in Escanaba
August 14-21	DNR Pocket Park—UP State Fair in Escanaba – PLEASE SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- DNR News: Get ready for summer outdoor fun (5/24/23)
- Double red flags mean don't go in the water (5/23/23)
- Two DNR field offices in western UP announce updated lobby hours (5/19/23)
- DNR bridge replacement project in Houghton County will produce longer travel times (5/18/23)
- Showcasing the DNR: Of grosbeaks, birdwatchers and other things (5/18/23)
- What you need to know about safe ORV riding (5/18/23)
- The great escape: Helping out urban mallards (5/18/23)
- 'Wildtalk' podcast May episode now available (5/13/23)
- Showcasing the DNR: Twenty years after the flood (5/12/23)
- Dry weather boosts fire risk around sate, especially northern areas (5/11/23)

Grant Contacts

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| ▪ 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 **Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council** met on Wednesday, May 17th in person in Iron Mountain. Meeting topics of discussion and updates provided included a construction progress report on both the Porkies indoor shooting range and the Marquette County public outdoor range from Lori Burford, a status report and pictures of the Lake Linden flooding and trails, the Michigamme Highlands forest legacy project overview, and an in-depth review of the proposed UP deer regulations from Chad Stewart. Commissioner Anthony, also in attendance, provided his perspective on the amendments brought forward at the May NRC Meeting and Chad answered several questions from Council members. The WUPCAC wildlife subcommittee brought two proposed resolutions to the Council for approval: 1) Remove Special Regulations in the UP CWD Area and 2) Reduce the Daily Bag Limit on Ruffed Grouse in the UP from 5 to 3 Daily. The first resolution passed unanimously, and the second resolution did not pass. Public comments related to deer regulations, wolves, herbicide treatment killing wild fruit bushes, boat launch tornado damage cleanup and road damage from logging. The next WUPAC Meeting will be held in Baraga on July 10.

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

May NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met on the campus of Lansing Community College in Lansing on May 11, 2023. Acting Director Shannon Lott approved:

- [Revised nuisance regulations for furbearers and small game.](#)
- Ten land transactions. Details of those transactions can be [found in the NRC agenda.](#)

The commission tabled until next month a decision on [proposed changes to regulations governing the use of dogs to track big game](#) such as elk, deer and bear. Commissioner John Walters offered a substitute to the proposed recommendation that the commission wanted to take more time to consider.

Fisheries Committee

Fisheries Chief Randy Claramunt introduced Seth Herbst as new Research Section manager for the Fisheries Division, replacing Gary Whelan, who retired last month. Seth gave [a presentation on inland walleye management](#). Walleye are a coolwater fish that can be referred to as a “Goldilocks species” because they need just the right habitat to thrive, Seth said. They like larger lakes, spawn in rocky nearshore areas or rivers, and are highly sensitive to light. We co-manage the species with tribal governments. Studies conducted in Wisconsin indicate declining natural reproduction in walleye that is associated with environmental change. Seth reviewed our “Management plan for Walleye in Michigan’s inland waters.”

The plan’s goals include:

- Protect, restore, or enhance habitats supporting Walleye populations
- Maintain self-sustaining Walleye populations
- Maintain and further develop relations with tribal governments and stakeholders
- Provide production capacity for Walleye stocking
- Provide diverse opportunities for Walleye fishing
- Manage Walleye populations to achieve desirable fish community characteristics

Our management efforts include assessing populations through fisheries surveys, recommending regulation changes when appropriate, assessing angler perceptions and use, and stocking in some appropriate circumstances.

Wildlife Committee

Joe Presgrove of the Marketing and Outreach Division and Dean Hall, executive director of Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger, [gave a presentation on the Sportsmen Against Hunger program](#). The program provides donated venison to families in need. State law mandates that the department have such a program, and the DNR contracts with Sportsmen Against Hunger to accomplish that goal. Hunters can donate venison directly through participating deer processors. People can also give monetary contributions to the program at the point of purchasing a hunting or fishing license. Since 1991, when Sportsmen Against Hunger was founded, the program has provided for the donation of more than 1 million pounds of ground venison. On average, the program receives about \$120,000 a year in donations to help offset processing costs. Retailers such as Jay’s Sporting Goods and Frank’s Great Outdoors have undertaken deer donation drives to support donations to MSAH.

Erik Schnelle and Matthew Ross of the National Deer Association offered their recommendations for deer regulations.

Mauri Liberati of the Wildlife Division [reviewed the complex science](#) of understanding white tailed deer and chronic wasting disease through a process called agent-based modeling.

Dwayne Etter of the Wildlife Division [offered preliminary results from research on antler point restrictions in deer](#). Based on NRC direction, the department in 2019 established a study area in Mecosta, Montcalm, Ionia, Kent and Newaygo counties. The goal of the study was to evaluate whether implementing antler point restrictions in this five-county CWD Core Area impacted the sex, age composition and relative abundance of deer populations over a four-year period, from 2019 to 2022. The study relied on the distribution of 144 trail cameras in 18 townships. The effort involved the help of over 160 private landowners, 30 department employees and over 20,000 person hours of work. We collected over 2.6 million photographs. The study predicted a decrease of over-all deer abundance in the APR area, but instead saw an increase. The study predicted an increase in adult buck abundance and found that to be the case in three APR townships and one non-APR township. The study predicted a decrease in yearling buck abundance, but instead saw an increase in yearling bucks in 2021 and 2022 in two APR townships and all four non-APR townships.

Director's Report, Committee of the Whole

Chad Stewart from the Wildlife Division [reviewed upcoming deer regulations](#). The department is recommending removing a baiting and feeding ban for deer in a portion of the Upper Peninsula. The zone was put in place following the 2018 finding of one CWD-positive deer in southern Dickinson County. Testing of more than 2,000 deer since that time in this zone has not found additional CWD-positive deer. The department is also recommending instituting antler point restrictions for combination license buyers in this zone, to be consistent with regulations across the U.P. The department recommends revisiting the question of allowing crossbows in the late archery season in the U.P. and the question of antlerless harvest with archery equipment in select deer management units in the U.P. Chad reviewed recent research around antler point restrictions and recommended restoring the four-point restriction on the restricted tag of the combination license in 19 Lower Peninsula counties where APRs had been previously eliminated because of the presence of CWD. The department has recommended increasing the number of deer that Liberty hunters can take during that season, allowing both antlered and antlerless deer to be harvested during that weekend instead of the current one deer bag limit. The department is also recommending a number of other small changes to deer regulations for the approaching regulations cycle which can be found in Chad's presentation.

[A report on legislation affecting the department](#) that was provided to the commission 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 the NRC Assistant at 517-331-7792 or email: 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).

May 2023 Legislative Updates – Taylor Ridderbusch, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

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

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

HB 4238 – Provide Appropriations from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund – Rep. Andrews: This bill contains the recommendations made by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant awards for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. The proposed appropriation totals more than \$23.3 million in project funding from the trust fund.

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

HB 4385 – Remove the Open Field Doctrine for DNR Employees – Rep. Markkanen: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to restrict DNR employee's ability to enter upon private property unless they have permission from the landowner or lessee or if they are a DNR peace officer or park and recreation officer with a warrant, reasonably believes evidence of a crime will be destroyed or they are in hot pursuit of criminal suspect.

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

HB 4441 – Eliminates License Fees for Veterans – Rep. Thompson: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow any resident who is a veteran to obtain any resident license, for which a lottery is not required, free of charge.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.

- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4458 – Designate Fines from Certain Infractions to Recreational Snowmobile Trail Improvement Subaccount – Rep. Farhat: This bill would amend the Revised Judicature Act of 1961 to deposit fines collected from civil infractions committed on designated snowmobile trails as outlined in HB 4459 of 2023 into the Recreational Snowmobile Trail Improvement account.

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

HB 4459 – Prohibit Motor Vehicles other than Snowmobiles on Designated Snowmobile Trails from December 1 to March 1 – Rep. Martin: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to add section 82163 by prohibiting the operation of a motor vehicle other than a snowmobile on designated snowmobile trails between December 1 and March 31 annually. This is punishable by a civil infraction of not more than \$200.

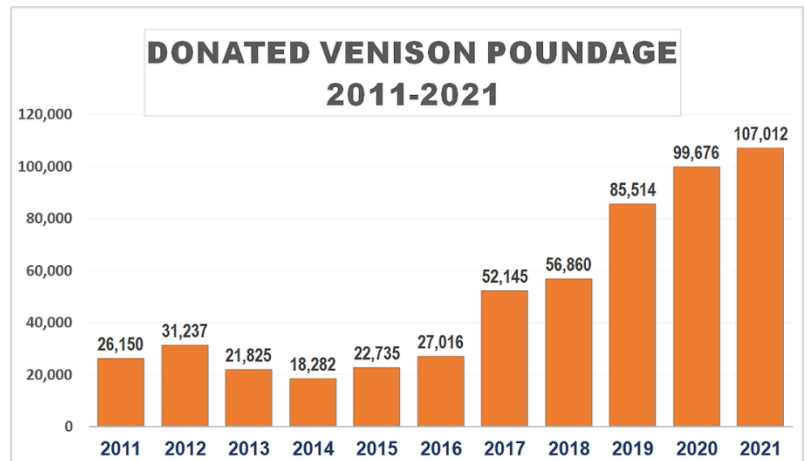
- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

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

Division Updates

Finance & Operations: Dave Graham, Eastern UP

From 1991 to September 30, 2022, a total of 1,038,207 pounds of ground venison has nourished 4,152,828 hungry adults and children in our Michigan communities. Thanks to the united effort of Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger (MSAH) participating processors, the generous hunters who have donated deer, and the hunters and non-hunters who finally support the MSAH to pay for deer processing. Over 100,000 pounds were donated in 2021 alone!



Season Dates for June & July 2023 (See guides on pages noted for more detail)

- 6/1 Deadline to apply for bear and elk hunts
- 6/3 Muskie possession season opens
- 6/10-11 Free Fishing and ORV weekend
- 6/17 Bass possession season opens on Lake St. Clair, St. Clair R, Detroit R, Boundary Waters
- 6/26 Bear and elk drawing results posted on website
- 7/1 May apply for fall turkey hunts
- 7/8 Dog training opens; may also use dogs for night hunting (see Fur Digest)
- 7/15 May apply for the U.P. antlerless deer access permits (*Can also apply for Reserved Deer Hunts*)
- 7/15 Opener for turtle seasons (snappers and softshells)
- 7/16 Sturgeon opener (for list of open waterbodies/regulations, see p. 15 of fisheries digest)

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

Wildlife Surveys

- Sharp-tailed grouse surveys ran from April 1 - May 15. Staff will be analyzing results soon. Results of the surveys are used to help monitor the sharp-tail population.
- The American woodcock singing-ground survey ran from May 1 – 20 across most of the UP. This is a national survey and results are provided to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The USFWS who provides a national report updating the trend of the population index later in the year. Results have shown a longterm decline in the population index through the history of the survey.
- Ruffed grouse drumming surveys ran from April 20- May 10. Grouse drumming surveys can provide an index of long-term trends in grouse populations as well as monitor the grouse “cycle”.

Projects & Outreach

- Approximately 120 acres of a large opening on Drummond Island was burned in early May to maintain the opening and enhance habitat for a variety of wildlife ranging from deer to sharp-tailed grouse.
- Newberry staff hosted a youth trapping workshop in Newberry on May 6th to teach youth about trapping and connect them with the outdoors.
- The Sault Ste. Marie Unit conducted a tree planting day on May 16th with partners including the Drummond Island Elementary School, Drummond Island Sportsmen’s Club, Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Conservation District, Ruffed Grouse Society, and Michigan Sharp-tailed Grouse Association. One hundred oak trees were planted and will benefit deer as well as numerous other wildlife species.
- Sault Ste. Marie forestry and wildlife staff will be leading a state forest field trip on May 31st during the Aldo Leopold Festival. Attendees will learn how state forest is managed including for timber production, wildlife habitat, and recreation.
- The Newberry Unit will be holding a tree planting day with MUCC on June 10th.
- Newberry staff will be hosting bird house decorating days for interested families or individuals in late June. Bird houses will be put up on the Zellar Meadows Trail in Newberry.
- Work is being done to enhance 1.5 miles of the Blind Sucker Pathway into a Wildlife Activity Trail with interactive stops along the trail and activity backpacks that can be checked out. An event is planned for Saturday, August 12th at the Blind Sucker Campground where there will be guided hikes and prizes for those who attend.
- Staff are busy checking and maintaining wildlife floodings, GEMS, and other wildlife areas.

Additional

- Seasonal wildlife assistants are on board at each office to assist with nuisance wildlife calls, surveys, habitat management projects, and maintenance activities.
- Nuisance and abandoned wildlife calls increase in spring and early summer.
 - Bear calls are one of the top nuisance wildlife complaints received this time of year. To avoid bear problems, take down your 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. Most bear complaints are resolved by removing food sources like bird feeders before bears show up in the spring.
 - Abandoned deer fawn calls are also common. Fawns are left by their mothers for extended periods of time as a defense mechanism against predators. The fawn will hide from a predator because it is too small to run away from it. While a fawn may appear abandoned, in most cases the mother is not far away and will return to the fawn when threats are no longer present.

Fisheries Division-Eastern UP – Neal Godby, Fisheries Biologist

- Newberry Fisheries Technicians deployed temperature loggers in area lakes and streams. A total of 20 temperature loggers were placed on 18 area waterbodies. Monitoring temperature in lakes and streams is important data to Fisheries Managers in determining warming trends and timing of warmups for different life stages of various fish

species. Temperature loggers are retrieved typically in the fall around the end of October and early November before ice forms.

- Newberry Fisheries staff installed 17 brush bundles in Au Train Lake as part of the Au Train Lake Habitat Improvement Project funded by the Fisheries Habitat Grant. These 17 bundles were a part of the total of 90 habitat structures completed in Au Train Lake. Crews finished up the remaining structures in early June by using boats to reposition trees which were felled as “Fishsticks” along the shoreline. These structures will be evaluated for occupancy in summer 2023 with the use of an underwater camera and ROV from the Lake Superior Central School District. This project was a collaborative project with Alger Conservation District and the Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation Development Council.
- Repairs were made at the Shelldrake Flooding dam in May. Bank erosion along the face of the dam was identified during the fall and spring visual inspections. Angular rip-rap and gravel were placed by hand along these eroded areas. A formal inspection by EGLE is scheduled for fall 2023.
- Young Lake in Luce County has been a stocked brook trout lake since 1948. During a recent land transaction by a private buyer, the parcels surrounding Young Lake have been withdrawn from the Commercial Forest designation and have now been moved into the Qualified Forest Act (QFA). Under the QFA (an MDARD program), private landowners do not have to allow public access. The new landowner has elected to keep the parcels as private not allowing public access. Therefore, anglers are now not allowed to access Young Lake to fish. Michigan DNR Fish Production staff have already stocked yearling brook trout on May 9 and ahead of any knowledge of this land designation change. Today, the lake is posted by the landowner with signs and a couple of cameras.
- Fisheries Technicians have started surveying area lakes using Status and Trends protocols. Netting surveys under this protocol use a standardized set of sampling methods and sampling begins when water temperatures reach and hold above 55°F. Area lakes for Status and Trends sampling this year include Colwell Lake (Schoolcraft), Murphy Lake (Schoolcraft), Andrus Lake (Chippewa), No Name Lake (Luce), and Big Trout Lake (Chippewa County, near DeTour).
- The Great Lakes Fishery Commission, along with numerous other partners, received \$150,000 from the MDNR Fisheries Habitat Grant for the Sucker River project at Highway 58. While additional funds are still needed, this provides momentum and shows that the State is invested in making that project a success. This new funding suggests that partners are approximately \$728,000 short for funding the construction of the new bridge based on current design.
- Northern Lake Huron Management Unit technicians have been assisting with broodstock collection and egg take operations for Great Lakes Muskellunge on the Detroit River.
- Walleye fry from Thompson State Fish Hatchery (TSFH) were stocked out into Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit (NLMMU) and co-op rearing ponds on May 23rd. Pond temperatures have been a bit cooler than normal and zooplankton abundance looks good. The tentative spring fingerling harvest and stocking time should be around the last week of June and first week of July.
- TSFH, NLMMU, and the Manistique Area Sportfishing Club (MASC) partnered to stock 75,000 spring fingerling chinook salmon into acclimation net pens at Fairport on May 3rd. MASC volunteers cared for the fish and then released them into Lake Michigan on May 11th with minimal losses. 25,000 chinook salmon were also directly stocked by TSFH into Lake Michigan at Fairport on May 3rd.
- Atlantic salmon are scheduled to be stocked in the St. Marys River in June. LSSU’s Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE) will be releasing Atlantic salmon on June 6. The DNR Platte River State Fish Hatchery will be stocking Atlantic salmon in the St. Marys River as close to that date as possible.

- Bay Mills Indian Community did a walleye population estimate in Carp (Trout) Lake in Chippewa County this spring. They found a reasonable number of naturally occurring walleye in this non-stocked lake. For more information, please contact Frank Zomer at Bay Mills Indian Community or Emily Martin in DNR Fisheries Division’s Tribal Coordination Unit.

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

Project Name: Haywire Grade – 11 Bridges	Project Name: Trail 8 – 3 Bridges	Project Name: Bissel Creek Culvert	Project Name: 20th Street Culvert
Description: Engineer and replace 11 bridges	Description: Engineer and replace 3 bridges	Description: Engineer culvert replacement	Description: Replace concrete culverts
Trail Use: ORV/Snowmobile	Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use:	Trail Use: Multi Use
Anticipated Completion: ??	Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: 2022	Anticipated Completion: 2023
Q3 Update: Meeting with Engineering on site June 14 th to start the evaluation process.	Q3 Update: Two crossings are being awarded, Site walk through complete and waiting on bids for the 3 rd crossing. We will be short of funds for the 3 rd crossing.	Q3 Update: Project started after Memorial Day weekend. Should take 2-3 weeks to complete.	Q3 Update: Pre-bid walk through complete. Bids were due May 31 st .
Project Name: Headquarters Lake Equestrian Signs	Project Name: Blind Sucker Pathway Boardwalk	Project Name: Millecoquins River Bridge	
Description: Signs and reroute needed.	Description: Rebuild Blind Sucker Pathway boardwalk.	Description: Snowmobile bridge footing replacement	
Trail Use: Equestrian	Trail Use: Hiking	Trail Use: Snowmobile	
Anticipated Completion: 2022	Anticipated Completion: 2022	Anticipated Completion: 2022	
Q3 Update: Local volunteers are working on completing the signing and the reroute.	Q3 Update: Crew finished the project on 5/25.	Q3 Update: A new access issue and new pipeline monitoring requirements are requiring a higher cost and potentially having to rebid the project. Working with DTMB and Engineering on a solution.	

Forest Resources Division: Scott Lakosky, Eastern UP Supervisor

Timber Sales

- Newberry FMU
 - Newberry had 4 scheduled timber bid dates during April and May where eight sales were offered. All sales sold with decent competition. The number of bidders ranged from 1 to 4 for each sale and bids came in at anywhere between 12 – 167% over minimum bid. Most sales offered were upland with species that have available markets. Pine markets are strong, hardwood pulp sales are weak but selling.
 - Logging activity is down for this time of year. Markets have not been good for hardwood pulp species which is a problem for many loggers due to Billerud issues. Quota limits been severely reduced for many loggers and subsequently there is a lot of hardwood pulp decked in the woods with nowhere to haul it.
 - 2023 timber sales are being prepped by DNR staff and contractors
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU

- 5 sales sold in Naubinway. Some were well over minimum and had multiple bidders. Two sales are on prospectus with a bid date of June 20, which previously went no-bid and are being reoffered.
- Shingleton FMU
 - 6 Sales sold since last report (3 State sales and 3 GNA sales). Strong interest and competitive bids on all species except winter sales.
 - Pulp markets are currently poor. Red and Jack pine bolt and saw timber sales are the only sales that are currently active.

Forest Inventory

- All units are working to complete their field data collection for the 2025 YOE inventory.
- The public review process will begin in September with open house meetings for each unit.
 - 9/7/2023 – Sault Ste Marie FMU
 - 9/21/2023 – Shingleton FMU
 - 10/5/2023 – Newberry FMU

Cultivation

- Planting
 - EUP Planting is complete for 2023; 2 crews planting throughout the district from 05/03/2023 to 05/13/2023.
 - Total trees/seedlings planted = 1,113,000 (360,000 Jack Pine planted, 753,000 Red Pine planted). Initial numbers for FY 2024 include: 523 acres being planted to jack pine across the Newberry and Shingleton Units, 1035 acres to be planted to red pine across the EUP.
- Pre-Commercial Thinning (PCT) Work
 - EUP will have 4 sites done with this type of release work, totaling 174 acres.
 - Contractor started on this work 05/30/2023: Site 42021033 in Newberry Unit is complete and crew has moved to Sault Unit
- 2023 cultivation POW for the EUP
 - 414 acres of roller chopping to complete. To date: 0 sites completed – repairs being done to the skidder
 - 1293 acres of trenching to complete (of this acreage, 74.5 scheduled for RX burn – if burns not completed, sites will be trenched). To date – 3 sites completed for 50 acres in Newberry Unit.
 - 1013 acres to be scarified (all done by contract w/Holli Forest Products, includes 209 acres in the Gwinn Unit). To date – 1 site completed in the Gwinn Unit.
 - Red Pine fertilization project (to promote increased seed/cone production): Project has been delayed until spring 2024. Logistically unable to complete the project in spring 2023 for a variety of reasons. Main reason being the early bud break on the red pine and lack of rain in forecast. Will be incorporated in an active timber sale. Project is roughly 35 acres.
 - Red Pine Seed Orchard: Initial prep work on the Red Pine seed orchard on the Thompson Plains was completed this spring. Site will be used to collect RP seed for planting operations.
 - Aerial site prep work: Current plan is to begin in late June in the UP. Operations will cease from June 30 – July 9. 648 acres of aerial site prep work
 - Skidder/Ground site prep work: Plan is to possibly begin in the EUP by mid-June as sites are ready. 352 acres of ground/skidder site prep work.
 - Release work (both aerial and ground/skidder): Will be done in late August/beginning of September. 216 acres of aerial release work and 50 acres of ground/skidder release work.

Fire

- Newberry FMU
 - Daily fire staffing continues until conditions improve.
 - Hosted S-131 Advanced Firefighter class
 - Staff assisted burn teams and fire standby in SLP and ELP for 2 weeks.
 - Newberry has had 1 Statistical Fire and 1 Non-Statistical Fire thus far.
 - Hosted a Pump training field day for Newberry Fire Staff

- Newberry staff participated in 2 Fire Prevention activity days reaching 300 contacts.
- Prepared Rx Burn Lines on Spruce Slash Rx that will be conducted yet this year in North Luce County in the 8-Mile Corner area.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
 - All unit staff completed their annual fire refresher (RT-130)
 - Two Fire Officers staffed a week in the lower peninsula for fire staffing shortages
 - Staff assisted the USFS to complete the S-130 Field Day for LSSU Fire Students
 - Four staffed worked on the southern lower peninsula burn teams for a week
 - Two Foresters assisted the Shingleton Unit on a prescribed burn in the Fayette Historic State Park.
 - Two wildland fire refreshers were completed with local fire departments in Mackinac County.
 - Non-Career Fire Officer started in Sault Ste. Marie
 - One Forester and the Non-Career Fire Officer attended and completed Emergency Driving Class with the Michigan Firefighters Training Council at Pickford Fire Department.
 - Attended the EUP Fire Chief's Association Meeting in Pickford. This meeting is held quarterly with the EUP Fire Departments and Emergency Managers.
 - Two road projects were bid out; both bids were significantly above projected costs and will be reviewed for re-bid in the fall.
 - Smokey Bear presentation done for the Engadine Pre-School.
 - One prescribed burn completed on Drummond Island for 118 acres. – Promote wildlife habitat and opening maintenance.
 - As of May 22nd, the Soo Unit has responded to 6 wildfires.
 - Fire equipment Preventative Maintenance has been completed.
 - Road & Bridge Equipment Preventative Maintenance is in progress with plans to completed within the next week or two.
 - Prout Rd. in Mackinac County has been temporarily closed for public safety due to a significant washout. Planning discussions to repair this Primary State Forest Road, ORV and Snowmobile Trail are on-going. Temporary reroute of the ORV trail has been completed.
 - FEPP Equipment returned to the DNR: Trout Lake FD – 5/4T truck, Pickford FD – 5/4T truck, Drummond Island FD – 6x6 fire truck.
 - Two new FEPP/DOD equipment requests received from Dafter FD and Drummond Island FD). Requests sent to ICC, but equipment is limited with the FEPP/DOD position vacancy.
 - Mutual Aid Agreement updates complete for City of Sault Ste. Marie FD, Dafter FD, Drummond Island FD.
- Shingleton FMU
 - Burned the Fayette Racetrack for PRD and 2 statistical fires in the unit this spring.

Road and Bridge

- Repaired 2 washouts that were reported this spring. One on the Camp 6 Road and one on the Halifax Road, both in the Newberry FMU.
- Newberry FMU has plans for five stream crossing upgrades this summer; Four of the five crossing are along the Charcoal Grade; Ottobrandt Bridge, Penny Creek Bridge, Savage Creek Bridge, Linton Creek Culvert. Also planning to replace Murphy Creek bridge along the Murphy Creek Trail. All work has been engineered and bid out with construction plans beginning in mid-June.

Facilities: Manistique fire garage construction has started and is on schedule.

Good Neighbor Authority: Work is being done on the Hiawatha National Forest under the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA); work is being planned for the East Zone for FY24-29 cultivation.

Land use

- Shingleton Unit has issued a few land use permits and worked on 3 land transactions.
- Currently reviewing several easement requests for fiber optic utilities burials on state land in North Luce County.

- Reviewing an easement request and temporary construction land use permit from Luce County Road Commission for a major upgrade project they are planning on County Road 407 & 410.
- Investigating a few land use violations in the Newberry FMU.

Forest Health

- Hemlock woolly adelgid was detected in Benzie County north of previously known HWA infestations in the lower peninsula, elevating awareness of the threat posed by HWA in Lake Michigan lakeshore areas across the UP. Forest health staff will be working with partners to encourage continued awareness and surveys.

Commercial Forest

- Doing field reviews for new enrollments into CF.
- Field checks on existing CF owners for compliance.
- Reviewing management plans
- Uploading existing management plans into the CF and Forest Stewardship database.
- Talking to landowners regarding CF land.

Training

- Several staff from the EUP District attending cruise training held in Newberry.
- Staff attended the DNR All-Employee Meetings.

Vacancies

- Forester in SSM was promoted – creating a vacancy.
- Naubinway Forest Tech 11 posting has closed and applicants are being screened.
- Seney Forest Tech 11 posting has closed and applicants are being screened.
- Forest Fire Supervisor vacancy in Newberry has been filled and started on April 30th.
- Forester vacancy in Newberry has been filled and started on May 14th.
- Fire Officer vacancy in Newberry is in the process of being filled.
- Candidates have been interviewed for Non-Career Forest Fire Officer positions at Seney and Newberry.

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

- We seemed to jump from busy spring fish runs and late snowstorms directly into summer with recent temps in the 80s. Officers have been working fish, marine and ORV enforcement along with responding to a number of illegal burning complaints, all of which have the potential for causing wildfires with the dry spring we have been experiencing.
- Officers have also been dealing with bear complaints which have mostly involved a bear visiting garbage that was left out or birdfeeders, neighbors intentionally feeding the bears, and frequently just simply being observed in the area. Many of these also involve people whose first reaction is to shoot the animal rather than removing the food opportunities to reduce encouraging the animals to return. Officers are attempting to educate people on resolutions rather than the unnecessary & unlawful killing of the bear which could lead to severe penalties.
- District 2 is now down an additional two officers as CO's Todd Sumbera & Chris Lynch both took promotional opportunities with the Commercial Fish Section (CFS). Law Division is continuing the selection process for the next hire group of Conservation Officers with backgrounds currently underway. As previously mentioned, this group of officers will be MCOLES (Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards) pre-certified officers. they will hopefully be in the field by this fall.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 5-1-2023

- **CO Robert Freeborn** volunteered at one of the local schools for their annual school carnival. The carnival is open to the public and consists of several activity stations for the kids to play throughout the school and gym. CO Freeborn along with local law enforcement took shifts running the "jail" where kids could place a person of their choosing in "jail" for 3 minutes. This is one of the most popular games offered at the carnival and was a great chance for law enforcement to interact with their community in a positive manner.

- While enroute to training, **CO Robert Freeborn** overheard local dispatch report of a home invasion in progress. CO Freeborn was just passing the street where the incident was taking place. CO Freeborn was first on the scene and apprehended the suspect in the backyard as they tried to flee. The suspect was then detained until local and state units arrived. As the local units were talking with the home invasion suspect, CO Freeborn ran files on other subjects currently at the residence. One of the subjects had 2 outstanding felony warrants. CO Freeborn placed the suspect in custody and transported the suspect to the local jail, while the local unit transported the home invasion suspect to jail.
- **CO Chris Lynch** responded to a complaint of angler recreational trespassing. CO Lynch was approaching an angler actively fishing and when the angler saw the CO, he stopped fishing and proceeded to dump his fish out of his bucket and threw them back into the water. CO Lynch informed the angler it was a little too late and after recounting all the fish together the angler was issued a citation for taking over the limit of yellow perch.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** conducted a fisheries patrol on local trout streams that were closed to fishing about a week prior to trout opener. CO Sumbera followed fresh tracks down an ORV trail to find an individual fishing a closed stream. The individual stated, "it's loaded with steelhead, and it was too tempting". A citation was issued for fishing a closed stream.
- **COs Mike Olesen and Todd Sumbera** put on a traditional hunter education course for individuals of the Eastern Peninsula. The class had a total of 25 students that attended the course and after completing the field day portion at the Chippewa County Shooting Association, all 25 students left with their hunter education certificate.
- **CO Justin Vinson** patrolled several rivers and creeks along Whitefish Bay for fishing activity. CO Vinson had stopped at the Tahquamenon River mouth and observed the vehicle belonging to two other fishermen he had checked earlier that night. CO Vinson waited for the two fishermen to return to their car, where he witnessed them carry more than 7 gallons of smelt from the river to their vehicle. Contact was made, and it was discovered that the two fishermen had more than 12 gallons of smelt they had caught at multiple locations. Citations were issued for taking an overlimit of smelt.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** participated in the Tahquamenon area Sportsman's club kids tackle party. Over 200 local kids and numerous adults attended and played a fishing game administered by the COs. Every child was able to leave with a prize consisting of fishing gear for the upcoming fishing season.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on fisheries patrol when he observed a vehicle driving towards a closed stream in Mackinac County. CO VanOosten followed the vehicle in a discreet manner and was able to observe the three occupants at the river with headlamps. CO VanOosten observed one individual with a large spear as he walked the close trout stream. Contact was made and the individuals admitted to attempting to illegally take steelhead with the spear. The man observed with the spear told CO VanOosten that he had speared hundreds of steelhead from that section of stream over the years. Additionally, it was determined that the man did not possess a fishing license. Citations were issued for fishing without a license, fishing a closed stream, and possessing a spear on a trout stream. The spear was seized as evidence.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol during opening day of trout season when he encountered two men fishing with minnows on a type A trout Lake. CO VanOosten educated the men on the regulations on that body of water and issued them a warning for the infraction.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol during opening day of trout season when he encountered 2 men fishing from a boat on a local trout lake. Upon contact it was determined that the vessel was unregistered, and they did not have any personal flotation devices on board. A citation was issued for failure to provide PFD. Warnings were issued for operating an unregistered watercraft and failure to provide PFD to the other passenger.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol early in the morning of opening day of trout season when a call was received of road killed moose. CO VanOosten was able to salvage several hundred pounds of the animal that was brought to a local processor to be processed and donated to local families.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol of Luce County when he encountered several individuals camping at a local campground. Two out of the three campsites, who were camping together, had already paid and posted the campsites. The third occupant stated that he was just about to pay (despite being there since the previous day). A citation was issued to the man for failure to post campsite and a warning was issued for failure to pay before occupying campsite.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** assisted DNR fisheries staff in sampling walleye in Big Manistique Lake. This knowledge will be beneficial in educating anglers about the population and management practices being implemented on the lake.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 5-15-2023

- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** presented at a high school career fair at Alger Parks and Recreation in Munising. Students from across Alger County learned about careers in Law Enforcement, Corrections, Forestry, Fire Fighting, and many other occupations. Several showed interest in the profession of law enforcement and about the daily duties of a Conservation Officer.
- While on patrol, **COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink** noticed a large amount of black smoke coming from a residential area along a county road. The COs located the driveway where the smoke appeared to be coming from. As they proceeded down the driveway, they immediately noticed a mobile home that had been demolished with debris scattered all over the yard. There was a large fire with 2 subjects in a car watching it burn. After talking briefly with the subjects, it was determined that they were burning most of the trailer and the contents that were left inside. The COs observed a bathtub, insulation, and many other household items that were engulfed in the flames. A citation was issued for the violation.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was on patrol when he observed an ORV operating down a road, the ORV didn't have a valid ORV license and the operator wasn't wearing a helmet. A traffic stop was conducted, and the operator was issued a citation.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was on patrol when he spotted fishing tackle along the bank of a closed section of the Rock River. CO Maki then observed 3 individuals fishing within the closed area. CO Maki contacted the individuals and learned that two were juveniles and one was an adult. CO Maki issued a citation to the adult and gave verbal warnings to the juveniles. All three were informed that the stream was closed in that specific section to protect the steelhead due to their vulnerability while spawning.

- **CO Brandon Maki** received information regarding an individual fishing in the closed section of the Rock River. CO Maki responded to the complaint and observed the individual still fishing in the closed section. CO Maki contacted the individual and issued a citation for fishing in the closed section.
- **CO Justin Vinson** investigated a complaint of a snowmobile that had not been retrieved from a Mackinac County lake after going through the ice several weeks prior when the operator decided to make a video of himself riding on last ice. During this the subject and his sled went through and a major rescue effort ensued to save his life after the reckless event. CO Vinson was able to locate the snowmobile in his patrol boat in approximately 8 feet of water. An interview was conducted with the suspect revealing that the sled had been in the water for over 3 weeks. The suspect claimed he couldn't locate the snowmobile. CO Vinson provided coordinates of the location of the sled. The snowmobile was removed later that afternoon.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** assisted wildlife division in a youth trapping workshop. The COs assisted in explaining trapping regulations, techniques, and ethics to 25 youth interested in trapping. Every child left with a bucket of trapping supplies, handouts, and a good knowledge base of what is involved in trapping.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on night patrol near Newberry when he encountered two ORVs driving through town. One of the ORVs was designed for one but had two riders and the other did not have a taillight. A traffic stop was conducted and it was determined that both ORVs did not have ORV registration stickers. Citations were issued for failure to license ORV and warnings were issued for the other violations.
- **COs from District 2** responded to a call from assistance in the Porcupine Mountains of District 1 for an 8-year-old child that had gone missing after separating from his family while camping. The COs responded and assisted by searching large expanses of remote terrain on foot. The missing child was located approximately 48 hours after going missing by local volunteer searchers in good health. COs hiked over 20 miles each in the two days across the 60,000-acre state park before the boy was found.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** returned to a location he had found muskrat traps in the previous fall. CO VanOosten again located the traps which were still out after the close of season. The investigation is ongoing.
- **COs Justin Vinson, Cole VanOosten, Mike Olesen, Todd Sumbera, and Sgt. Calvin Smith** conducted a group ORV patrol on Drummond Island for the "Jeep the Mac" event. Over 800 hundred jeeps were registered with most of them coming to the island to ride the trails. No major incidents were encountered or reported.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 5-29-2023

- **COs Steve Butzin and Chris Lynch** patrolled the waters of Little and Big Bay de Noc over the span of several days following opening season of walleye and northern pike. Anglers were having a fair amount of success catching walleye. Well over a hundred boats with fishermen were contacted. Citations were issued to several individuals for possession of short fish, failure to use navigation lights between sunset and sunrise, and for expired boat registrations.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol in Masonville Township fueling his patrol truck at a local gas station when he was approached by a woman requesting he take a bag containing human baby formula and expired cat food to feed to wild black bear. CO Butzin explained that the area does not have a black bear rehabilitation facility and this request was not possible. The individual became very irate and began swearing and screaming at the officer. CO Butzin realized that there was something odd with this interaction and ran a file check on the subject's vehicle. The vehicle came back with an expired license plate, no insurance, and the female owner currently had 14 valid arrest warrants from agencies throughout Michigan and several other states. CO Butzin attempted to detain the individual while the status of the warrants was being confirmed. The individual resisted the officer by running into the gas station, jumping on a table, screaming, swearing and refusing to be detained. CO Butzin had to physically restrain the subject on the floor for several minutes until backup was able to arrive and assist in placing the individual in handcuffs. The individual was arrested for resisting and obstructing a police officer and lodged in the Delta County Jail..
- **COs Chris Lynch and Sgt Mark Zitnik** were on patrol when they observed an angler walking towards them on the river. Once the angler observed the COs, the angler quickly set down his bucket and fishing pole and was apparently nervous. The COs contacted the angler and upon checking fish bucket it was determined the angler was in possession of 6 brook trout and was still fishing. The angler admitted he knew the possession limit was 5 fish. The angler was issued a citation for possessing an over limit of brook trout.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** were patrolling Little Bay De Noc when they observed a few anglers fishing from a boat. The COs contacted the anglers and upon checking the fish in the live well it was determined that one northern pike was undersize. The angler responsible for catching and keeping the fish was issued a citation for possessing an undersized northern pike.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** spoke on a local radio show "Behind the Badge" and talked about the upcoming "Three free weekend" which includes free fishing, ORV license and state park entry along with the associated laws that still apply.
- **CO Chris Lynch** attended the "Camp Skeeter" event at the Pocket Park in Escanaba where approximately 60 area first graders were in attendance. CO Lynch talked with the first graders about the job of a Conservation Officer.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** attended a birding event at Portage Point in Escanaba. The CO's interacted with kids and bird enthusiasts while at the event.
- **Sgt Mark Zitnik and CO Brandon Maki** were patrolling the Forest Lake Basin on the opening day of Pike and Walleye season. COs observed a boat in the distance fishing. Upon approaching the fishermen, COs noticed the vessel had not been registered in the past couple of years. The fishermen stated that they used the boat last year as well. CO Maki issued a citation for failing to display a proper registration.
- **CO Brandon Maki** attended Tactical Tracking School at Fort Custer along with 24 other COs. Throughout the week COs learned and put to use skills for tracking individuals through multiple terrain types.
- **COs Robert Freeborn, Justin Vinson and Sgt Mark Zitnik** conducted a group ORV patrol during the busy holiday weekend. Several side by sides were stopped for no ORV license, no seat belt and open intoxicants. Several citations were issued for the violations.
- While on routine patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn and Sgt Mark Zitnik** were on routine patrol during bass opener. While most fishermen had all safety gear required, one boat was found to be short a life jacket. A citation was issued for the violation.

- **CO Robert Freeborn and Sgt Mark Zitnik** responded to a request for back up from a local city officer. The officers responded to a welfare check on an individual that had been acting very strangely the previous night and neighbors were very worried on the status of his girlfriend due to several loud arguments. The officers located the subject asleep who was heavily under the influence of drugs and had several outstanding warrants. The subject was placed in custody and transported to the jail.
- **CO Justin Vinson** was patrolling near downtown Grand Marais when he observed a side by side operating without an ORV license being displayed. A traffic stop was conducted revealing that not only was the operator without an ORV license, but his driver's license was also revoked. A citation was issued for operating without an ORV license and operating an ORV while revoked.
- **CO Justin Vinson** was patrolling Northern Luce County when he observed an individual operating a side by side without a seatbelt and was not displaying a valid ORV license. A traffic stop was conducted and a citation for operating without an ORV license and a seat belt was issued.
- **CO Mike Olesen** responded to a fire that had escaped on Drummond Island. Once on scene the local fire department was still attempting to extinguish tree stumps that the landowner had started on fire. Not only did the landowner fail to take precautions to prevent the escape of a fire but no burn permits were being issued due to the extremely dry conditions. A citation was issued for burning without a permit.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on patrol when he observed an ORV being operated without a valid ORV license. A stop was made on the ORV and a citation was issued for operating an ORV without a license.
- **COs Cole VanOosten and Mike Evink** served a search warrant in Mackinac County stemming from an illegally taken white-tailed deer back in December of 2022. Additional evidence was found during the search.

Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Chief

- **Social Media**
 - The main Michigan DNR Twitter account has been verified and received official government “grey check mark” status. This increases our presence in the newsfeed/timeline. This is a new system Twitter rolled out recently.
 - The DNR now has a QR code generator, allowing the department to customize QR codes for use on materials. Division project leads that could use an official QR code can work with their communications representatives and MOD.
- **DNR Career Video Series:** We are continuing to work on the career video series, which highlights various careers throughout the department via interviews, b-roll footage and still photography offering a glimpse of employees' careers. We will be switching focus to ensure the DNR's priority positions, those with the most vacancies (fire officers, foresters, and park rangers), will be the focus of filming in the next round.
- **Licensing**
 - Printing of the 2024 Snowmobile stickers is set for June 7. We will be on site to do a “press check” when the vendor begins printing. This gives us plenty of time to have the stickers printed, sent to the MAI warehouse, and loaded into the sales system inventory before public sales begin September 1.
 - We will meet with our Michigan Snowmobile and ORV Association (MISORVA) partners on June 14 to conduct the reconciliation of 2023 Snowmobile stickers issued through the MISORVA sales channel. Per our contract with MISORVA this annual sales reconciliation must be conducted no later than July 1.
 - On May 18 we initiated a “cross-sale” feature on the license sales system that has been steadily increasing Sportsmen Against Hunger donations. With this feature, a “pop-up” box displays during certain sales transactions and asks customers if they would like to donate. This feature is on POS terminals, eLicense, and the mobile app. In license year 2022, we averaged a donation rate of 2.79%. Since implementing the cross-sale feature we now are averaging a 5.04% donation rate.
- **Shooting Sports and R3**
 - Range Activities
 - Ortonville shooting bench repair complete, and range reopened.
 - Construction of new ranges at Porcupine Mountains State Park, Barry State Game Area, and Marquette County to be completed by September 2023.
 - Range renovation at Echo Point Shooting Range in Allegan State Game Area has begun.
 - Design work continues for the new range development project in Roscommon County. Anticipate construction award summer 2023.
 - Archery coordinator participated in the City of Detroit's [Kids to Park event](#) last weekend
 - R3 coordinator attended National R3 Symposium in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
 - Pheasants Forever coordinating “Learn to Wing Shoot” events at DNR ranges in June.
 - June 13-15 NWTF holding BB shoot at Sleepy Hollow, Harrisville, and Clear Lake State Parks.
- **MiCO (Mi Connect – DNR retail sales system):** MiCO released a new update on May 25:

- Kalkomey cleanup, converting all combination class users to reflect the 2 certifications on new import and existing records.
- Interstate Wildlife violator compact cleanup, which imported IWVC records now reflect all revocations as one record.
- New minimum quantity product feature for Wildlife to be able to sell DMAP deer permits in bundles.
- The MiCO team is also finalizing the project plans for change notice 1426 (Deer Harvest Report) and 1425 (Deer Permit Authorization Harvest Report). This project will run concurrent with normal sprint work starting this week.
- **Network and Technology**
 - Wardens filmed segments including:
 - A successful turkey hunt with Director Lott
 - The 200th MUCC anniversary
 - The Ground event planting thousands of native wildflower seedlings to improve an oak-pine barrens habitat within the Huron-Manistee National Forest in a partnership with the the Michigan DNR and US Forest Service
 - A charity event hosted by the Bald Mountain Shooting range for the Rags Remembered Foundation. The "[Rags Remembered Foundation](#)" helps provide outdoors opportunities for kids and it was an honor to host their event.
 - A new Tips and Tricks from MOD Technology staff – #23 SharePoint “Files Older Than 7 Years will be Deleted in June 2023” was issued this last month helping DNR personnel understand the retention of files in SharePoint.
 - David Haupt gave a presentation on Using Technology to Engage and Collaborate for PRD professional development meeting.
- **Education:** The education team accomplished Explorer Guide training for 35 seasonal employees that are now deployed around the state helping visitors feel confident and comfortable in the outdoors and understand Michigan’s most pressing conservation issues.

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

EUP District Supervisor Report

- Attended first in-person Field Operations meeting since 2020 at Interlochen State Park. These meetings consist of all 8 each District Supervisors, Southern Field Operations Chief, and Assistant Parks & Recreation Chief.
- Attended Stakeholder meeting for the Indian Lake & Palms Book general management plan.
- Attended the 2023 Parks & Recreation Park Ranger Law Enforcement Academy graduation at the Ralph A MacMullan Conference Center. The EUP had two graduates at this academy.
- Hosted an EUP District meeting at Brimley State Park.
- Took part in the annual 2 day campground host training at the Ralph A MacMullan Conference Center. This was our first in-person training session for hosts since 2019 and my 22nd year helping present and organize. Met a great group of volunteers.
- Attended the DNR All Employee meeting in Sault Ste Marie.
- Completed yearly performance evaluations for all EUP supervisory staff.
- Continue to attend meetings regarding the transition of the snowmobile program from FRD to PRD.
- Attended bi-weekly progress meetings for Tahquamenon Lower Falls Park Store & Restroom construction project.
- Attended bi-weekly progress meetings for Mackinac Island Comfort Station construction project.
- Attended bi-weekly progress meetings for Straits State Park Restroom building construction project.
- Attended final completion meeting for Lime Island State Harbor breakwall and dock construction project.
- Attended Fayette Water Plant construction progress meeting.
- Attended Fayette design kick-off meeting for ARPA project.
- Numerous virtual design progress meetings for Tahquamenon & Muskallonge ARPA projects.

Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island

- Lime Island AST cleaning & Hazardous Material Assessment: Received preliminary cost estimates from professional which was well above available funds. It was determined to put the project on hold for the time being, to strategize the path forward with this project.
- Lime Island Harbor upgrade project: Contractor re-mobilized in mid-April and completed remaining work. May 4th was a final completion meeting on-site.
- Brimley utility improvement (waterline/storm water replacement): On 5/15/23 a 90% design meeting was held.
- Brimley Restroom/Shower BLDG project: Contractor continues to address punch list items.
- All Units have hired STW summer staff-all units fully staffed or close to it.
- DeTour Ranger vacancy- screened candidates sent to HR for approval to interview.
- Brimley Seasonal Ranger offer was accepted, and new ranger started 5-1-23.
- Brimley has an additional Ranger vacancy due to a resignation. Position was posted for two weeks & screened candidates sent to HR for approval to interview.
- Brimley Campground reservable dates are May 15th- October 15th this year. Campground opened on May 15th. Campground was full on Saturday of Memorial Day wknd, with just a handful of sites open for 1 night on Friday and Sunday nights.
- DeTour State Harbor: Operating dates are May 15th- September 30th. Harbor opened on May 15th with full amenities.
- Lime Island Recreation Area operating dates are June 15th- September 4th.
- Both DeTour & Munuscong SFCG's are open for camping. Munuscong was very busy during the Walleye/Pike opening weekend and continued to be very busy on Memorial Day Wknd.
- Brimley & DeTour Rangers and STW have been busy getting water on, buildings open, campgrounds cleaned up and ready for campers.
- Brimley hosted PRD/EUP District meeting on May 24th.
- DeTour, Brimley, and Lime have been awarded DNR/PRD-Green Initiatives funding for LED lighting conversions and all units have received funding for battery operated equipment.
- Brimley SP had an electrical issue on 5-27-23, which is causing low voltage to Campground Office, HQ building and pump station. Electrical contractor is trying to determine cause/location to repair.

Fayette Historic State Park

- Townsite: General reactionary maintenance to window sashes, doors, locks, siding, etc. Substantial completion of restoration work on Building #7
- Park: Seasonal preparation of all facilities went very well – no major issues! Multiple ARPA projects kicking off. First time that we can recall, all STW's from last year returned for the 2023 season.
- Ranger Robert Ray graduated from Law Academy
- Memorial weekend camp nights 2022 compared to 2023. 2022 - Fri/Sat/Sun – 174 camps. 2023 - Fri/Sat/Sun – 170 camps, down 2%.
- Day Use: 2022 - Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon – 433 cars. 2023 - Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon – 435 cars, essentially even.
- FRD performed the second controlled burn in the racetrack infield. Entire area burned as planned, but we did not generate as much heat as we wanted.

Indian Lake State Park & Palms Book State Park

- Palms Book septic field project is nearing completion. Septic field is now operational.
- Pre-Bid Walk through meetings are scheduled for the first week of June for Indian Lake T/S building replacement and phase 2 of Indian lake shoreline protection project.
- Lake Gogebic construction crew finished working on the rail of the dock and boardwalk at Palms Book State Park.
- Bid packages are due back in early June for installation of new shingles on the gift shop roof at Seul Choix Point Lighthouse.
- Bid packages are also due back in early June for new hand pump wells and abandonment of old wells at Kingston Lake and Canoe Lake State Campgrounds.
- Sent in request for fixing well pit at Seul Choix, waiting on approval to move forward for bids.
- Most STW worker positions are filled for the summer.

- One seasonal ranger completed and graduated from the Parks and Recreation Law Academy.
- Delta County dive team completed the annual clean-up of the Big Springs.

Muskallonge Lake

- ARPA Projects:
 - Design and engineering are in progress for a new toilet/shower building in the west campground. 90% plans are currently under review.
 - Soil borings are in progress for the road re-paving and wastewater lagoon system project.
- Two new seasonal Rangers have been hired this Spring, Justice Cottrell and Gregg Hickman have joined the team!
- All short-term worker positions are filled! We are staffed up and ready for the busy season.
- Our Explorer guide is busy planning programs for this season. We will be running educational programs 4-5 days a week throughout the summer.
- Memorial Day Weekend was busy with above average camping numbers.
- The Lake Superior Overlook Day Use was above average in attendance with visitors hunting for agates -and yooperlites.
- State Forest campground use was average with Lake Superior and Blind Sucker 2 with the highest attendance.

Newberry Field Office

- Milakokia Lake BAS Improvements: Received one bid for the project and it was twice the engineers estimate of cost. Postponing project and tentatively planning re-bid Spring of 2024.
- Using new brush cutter to cut brush back at BAS and SFCGs.
- Sign repair and replacement at BAS and SFCG.
- SFCG and BAS road grading completed.
- Assisted TFSP in setting new fire rings at Two-Hearted SFCG.
- Repair road washout at Munuscong River SFCG.
- Clean ramps at Seul Choix Point BAS, McDonald Lake BAS and Indian Lake SP BAS.
- Have successfully filled all STW positions for the 2023 summer season.
- The SFCGs overseen by the NFO were approximately 50% fully for Memorial Day weekend. Milakokia Lake BAS was the busiest site over the holiday weekend.

Straits State Park & Mackinac Island State Harbor

- Straits upper toilet shower buildings are under construction with substantial completion now set for July 6
- Mackinac Island Harbor toilet shower building nears completion but is now past due for substantial completion. Supply delays are an ongoing issue.
- Campsite improvements have been ongoing in campground.
- Straits has a full summer staff for the 2023 season.
- Mackinac Island Harbor still has STW positions to fill.
- Wild Turkey Federation will have their annual kid's turkey shoot BB gun range in July
- Lower campground was full for Memorial weekend. Upper still closed due to construction.
- Lots of eager campers calling and the season is starting to take off.
- State Forest Campground use is picking up as well.
- With all the ARPA moneys and projects out there, it is difficult to work with contractors as they are spread too thin and trying to do more than they can.
- Mackinac Island Harbor toilet shower building nears completion, but problems keep arising. Water heater shipment is now not schedule until June 19. The old water heater has been hooked up to run in the meantime.
- Strait's contractor was granted a 16-day extension to their contract.

Tahquamenon Falls State Park

- Capital Outlay Projects
 - Lower Falls Concession Store Remodel/Replacement project: The new park concession building, and new bathroom building were opened up to the public just prior to Memorial Day Weekend. Asphalt paving and landscaping work will be ongoing the next couple weeks. Project completion is scheduled for June.
 - Lower Falls Boat Concession/Island Redevelopment project: Construction on new fencing to address soil erosion areas on the Lower Falls Island are ongoing.
 - Whitefish Point State Harbor Phase 1 Improvements: The project team continues to work through the design process and are looking at baseline improvements that will allow the site to meet ADA guidelines and allow for the new docks to adjust with fluctuating Lake levels.
- ARPA Projects
 - Lower Falls Hemlock Campground T/S building: Working through design, hoping to bid the project late this summer and have construction begin in October, with a completion date of Mid-June 2024
 - Rivermouth Maintenance Building: Is also in design with bids for construction possibly happening in early 2024.
 - Upper Falls Brink Stair replacement: The project team is beginning to design a switched- backed boardwalk system that will make the Brink viewing experience Universally Accessible.
 - Lower Falls Portage Campground Electrical upgrade: Design has yet to begin on this project. The scope of work will include installing pedestals on each campsite, increasing the number of 50A serviced sites, & some ADA campsite upgrades.
 - Lower Falls Water Distribution System: Design has yet to begin on this project. The scope of work will include replacing one of the 2 water wells that service the entire Lower Falls Unit, upgraded jug fillers, and upgrading the Well-House control system.
 - Upper & Lower Falls traffic flow study: Has not begun. Will look at options to increase public safety at congested Park entrances on M-123 and come up with options to address overcrowding in Parking areas.
 - Upper Falls Lagoon System: Has not begun yet. Will attempt to troubleshoot/address capacity issues with the current system.
- Mikayla Carbone was hired on as a commissioned seasonal Park Ranger on May 15th.