

Eastern & Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Councils DNR Division Reports for Annual Joint Meeting



Date of Production: October 1, 2025

This documentation is provided by Michigan DNR staff as a supplement to verbal reports which will be given to the Eastern & Western UPCAC at the October 2025 Joint UPCAC Meeting in Houghton.

Welcome to the Annual Joint UPCAC Meeting

DNR Public Meetings

For virtual or conference call meeting information, please go to DNR Meetings and click on the appropriate meeting and/or agenda for instructions.

October 7	Non-Motorized Advisory Workgroup, 10am (517-331-6219)
October 8	Michigan State Waterways Commission, 9am (517-285-0747)
October 8	Lake Superior Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee, 10am (231-350-8654)
October 8	Lake Michigan Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee, 10:30am (616-490-5090)
October 8	Joint Meeting of the Eastern & Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Councils, Houghton, 3pm (906-226-1331)
October 9	Board of Foresters, 7:15am (906-458-6965)
October 9	Michigan Natural Resources Commission, Houghton, 8:30am Coffee with the Commissioners, 9 am meeting (NRC@michigan.gov)
October 15	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, 9am (517-284-5954)
October 15	Forest Management Advisory Committee, 1 pm (517-582-3220)
October 16	Michigan Wildlife Council, 10am (517-420-9281)
October 17	Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council, 8:30 am (517-582-3220)
October 21	Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup, 1pm (517-331-3790)
October 22	Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee, 2pm (517-284-6135)
November 6	Michigan Natural Resources Commission, Lansing, 9am (NRC@michigan.gov)
December 12	Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, Virtual, 6pm (906-226-1331)

UP State Park & State Sponsored Activities

Please check with the state park before attending activity for any scheduling changes.

October 3-4	Fayette Historic State Park – Fayette Fall Fest
November 3	Deer Drop-In Mondays 10am-3pm - Marquette CSC, Escanaba CSC, Baraga CSC, Crystal Falls Field Office, Sault Ste. Marie Field Office, Newberry CSC
November 17	Deer Drop-In Mondays 10am-3pm - Marquette CSC, Escanaba CSC, Baraga CSC, Crystal Falls Field Office, Sault Ste. Marie Field Office, Newberry CSC
December 1	Deer Drop-In Mondays 10am-3pm - Marquette CSC, Escanaba CSC, Baraga CSC, Crystal Falls Field Office, Sault Ste. Marie Field Office, Newberry CSC

Check out these links regularly for upcoming fall nature events held at these state parks:

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

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- Showcasing the DNR: Finding your path is easy in The Trails State (9/25/25)
- Michigan parks and conservation leader receives national honor (9/25/25)
- Hunters: Remember to 'Clean. Drain. Dry.' to protect waterfowl habitat (9/25/25)

- Waterfowl hunters: Protect yourself and domestic animals from bird flu (9/24/25)
- Deer hunting preview: Robust 2024 harvest could extend into 2025 (9/24/25)
- DNR proposes expanded deer hunt, forest improvements on Beaver Island (9/22/25)
- Walk, paddle, ride, relax during Michigan Trails Week (9/19/25)
- Fisheries, forestry, trails and more at DNR's October meetings (9/18/25)
- NotMISpecies webinar: Michigan's CISMAs are here to help! (9/16/25)
- Get ready for the Liberty Hunt and early antlerless firearm seasons (9/12/25)
- Sunny fall weather means bigger fire risk, especially in northern Lower Peninsula (9/12/25)
- Fall turkey season starts Sept. 15. Here is what you need to know (9/12/25)
- Hunters invited to use new online grouse, woodcock reporting tool (9/11/25)
- New this season: DNR hunter events across Michigan (9/10/25)

Grant Contacts

For other grant information, to go: [Michigan 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 |
| ▪ Boating Infrastructure Grants | Curt Wemple, 231-444-8029, wemplec1@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Land & Water Conservation Fund | Christie Bayus, 517-242-8737, bayusc@michigan.gov |
| ▪ ORV Trail Improvement Program | Richard Kennedy, 517-284-7275, kennedyr@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Snowmobile Trail Improvement Fund | Richard Kennedy, 517-284-7275, kennedyr@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Waterways Program Grants | Curt Wemple, 231-444-8029, wemplec1@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Invasive Species Grant | Kelsey Dietz, 517-388-8473, dietzk2@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Fisheries Habitat Grant Program | Joe Nohner, 517-284-6236, nohnerj@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 |
| ▪ Michigan Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants | Kelly Robbins, 517-930-4294, robbinsk@michigan.gov |
| ▪ ORV Safety Education Grants | Richard Kennedy, 517-284-7275, kennedy4@michigan.gov |

UP DNR Customer Service Centers and Field Offices

Customer Service Centers have staff to answer questions, Monday-Friday, excluding holidays

Baraga Customer Service Center	906-353-6651	Ishpeming Field Office	906-485-1031
Escanaba Customer Service Center	906-786-2351	Naubinway Field Office	906-477-6048
Marquette Customer Service Center	906-228-6561	Norway Field Office	906-563-9042
Newberry Customer Service Center	906-293-5131	Crystal Falls Field Office	906-875-6622
Sault Ste Marie Customer Service Center	906-635-6161	Shingleton Field Office	906-452-6227
Gwinn Field Office	906-346-9201	Stephenson Field Office	906-753-6406

September 2025 NRC Meeting Summary

The Natural Resources Commission met on the downtown campus of Lansing Community College on Thursday, September 11.

The Commission approved six changes to fisheries regulations:

- [Fisheries Order 202.26](#), which will allow for the use of a bead fished on a line attached above a bare hook at a length of no further than 4 inches above the eye.
- [Fisheries Order 205.26](#), which will allow for a catch-and-immediate release fishing season for lake sturgeon on the Menominee River from the Grand Rapids Dam upstream to Sturgeon Falls Dam on the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary waters. The season would begin on the first Saturday of June 2026 and would run through the first Sunday in March 2027.
- [Fisheries Order 218.26](#), which provides a general definition of artificial lures and adds a provision on bead fishing.
- [Fisheries Order 229.26](#), which removes the hoop netting season for burbot from Dec. 15 through February on three rivers in the Upper Peninsula: the Au Train River in Alger County from Au Train Lake to the mouth; Sturgeon River in Baraga County from the M-38 bridge to the mouth; and the Peshekee River in Marquette County. The change will help protect spawning populations.

- Fisheries Order 240.26, which will limit the Black Lake sturgeon season to a maximum of three days. Prior to this change, the season was limited to a maximum of five days. The season has typically wrapped up in less than one day. This year, it took 17 minutes. The change will alleviate the potential for extending the burden of this special fishery on the department by two days should fishing conditions result in a longer season.
- Fisheries Order 252.26, which will set a daily possession limit of five fish for burbot to protect spawning populations. Previously, there was no harvest limit on burbot.

Director Scott Bowen approved 10 land transactions. Details can be found in the NRC agenda.

Committee of the Whole, Director's Report

Director Bowen began his report by making some comments regarding department funding. "Budgets are how our political system expresses our shared needs and values," the director stated. "Without additional funding, it's not a question of if, but when we face a wildfire we can't contain or a dam that fails. The DNR is responsible for more than 200 dams on state-managed public land. Their average age? Sixty-two years. And right now, there is zero funding appropriated by the Legislature for repairs or removals. These problems are foreseeable, preventable and manageable."

Tom Weston of the Marketing and Outreach Division and Garrett Zuver from the Food Bank Council of Michigan gave a presentation on Hunters Feeding Michigan, which is the successor is the Sportsmen Against Hunger program. Hunters Feeding Michigan, operated by the department, allows hunters and farmers to donate harvested venison to families in need. To help distribute this meat, the department has forged a partnership with the Food Bank Council of Michigan, which reaches 2,000 agencies such as food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. The program tests all donated deer for chronic wasting disease and bovine tuberculosis. In addition, all the venison is tested for metal fragments and any venison containing fragments is discarded. Currently, we have 16 participating processors. For this fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30, some 480,000 servings of meat have been provided to the public. By 2027, the department's goal is to provide 1.2 million servings annually. The program also has six refrigerated trailers which it provides to farmers who are experiencing crop damage so they can take and store deer during warm months for later donation. This helps address overabundance of deer in some parts of the state while simultaneously feeding families in need.

Randy Claramunt and Lucas Nathan from the Fisheries Division gave a presentation on six proposed changes to fisheries regulations that will be before the Commission for action at next month's meeting.

Randy Knapik and Kali Rush from the Wildlife Division gave a presentation on Wetland Conservation efforts undertaken by the department. Michigan has lost about 50 percent of its wetlands, and some of the remaining wetlands are degraded. The two talked about a variety of efforts in the department, working with a broad range of partner partners, to improve and restore wetlands across the state.

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

How to Participate in the NRC Meetings

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

September 2025 Legislative Updates

HB 4873-4876 – Creates Upper Peninsula Natural Resources Commission – Reps. Bohnak, Markkanen, Fairbairn & Prestin: These bills would create an Upper Peninsula Natural Resources Commission and establish membership and authority for the Commission to make certain decisions regarding game in the Upper Peninsula.

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

HB 4822 – Modify Natural Resource Commission Meeting Requirements – Rep. Fairbairn: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department to livestream all Natural Resources Commission meetings and maintain a publicly available archive of all past meetings.

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

HB 4828 – Adjusts Recreation Passport Revenue Distribution Formula – Rep. Mentzer: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to modify the formula for distribution of funds received from the Recreation Passport.

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

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

- These bills were reported with recommendation and was referred to second reading.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

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

- These bills were reported with recommendation with substitute H-1 and was referred to second reading.
- The Administration is supportive of this legislation.

SB 526 – Modifies Local Watercraft Control Procedure – Rep. Moss: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to create a process for lakes without public access to enact certain controls with a petition containing signatures from 75% of riparian owners and Department approval.

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

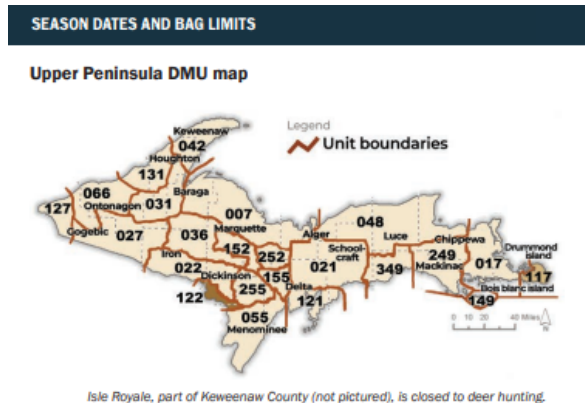
If you would like to learn more about any bills listed, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at <https://www.legislature.mi.gov>.

Division Updates

Executive Division

Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy

- 2025 Michigan Deer Hunting Regulations Summary: [2005 Deer Hunting Regulations Summary](#)
- All online regulation summaries: [Regulation Summaries and Handbooks](#)

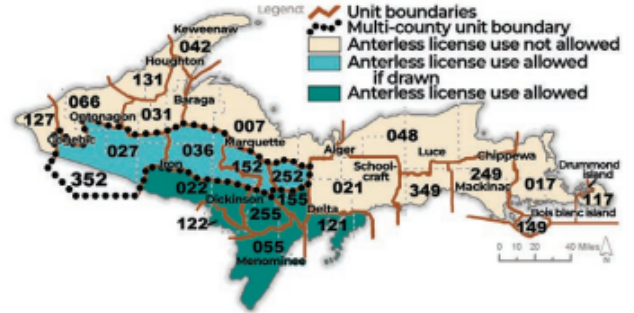


Upper Peninsula APRs

1. Look at the Upper Peninsula DMU map and locate the DMU(s) you wish to hunt.
2. Match the color of your desired DMU(s) to the color(s) in the Upper Peninsula APRs chart to see the type of deer you may harvest in each season based on your license.



Upper Peninsula antlerless DMU map



Isle Royale, part of Keweenaw County (not pictured), is closed to deer hunting.

Where can I hunt with my universal antlerless deer license in the Upper Peninsula?

If you are hunting in the Upper Peninsula with a universal antlerless deer license:

- You can hunt antlerless deer in the southernmost DMUs (022, 055, 121, 122, 155 and 255).
- You can hunt antlerless deer in DMU 352 (includes middle DMUs 027, 036, 152 and 252) **ONLY if you obtain an antlerless deer hunting access permit** to use with your universal antlerless deer license. One antlerless deer hunting access permit for DMU 352 plus one universal antlerless deer license is required for each deer harvested. Universal antlerless licenses are valid on public and private lands in all deer seasons. See the Antlerless Deer Drawing System section on page 29 for drawing information.

Are there areas in the Upper Peninsula that I cannot use my universal antlerless deer license?

Yes. You cannot use a universal antlerless deer license in the following areas:

- DMU 351 (includes middle DMUs 017, 021, 117, 149, 249 and 349). DMU 351 is closed to antlerless harvest with a universal antlerless deer license.
- Northernmost DMUs (includes DMUs 007, 031, 042, 048, 066, 127 and 131). These northernmost DMUs are closed to antlerless harvest.

		Upper Peninsula Seasons			
		Early archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Late archery
Single deer license					
Deer combo license	Regular tag				
	Restricted tag				
Single deer license					
Deer combo license*	Regular tag				
	Restricted tag				
Single deer license					
Deer combo license	Regular tag				
	Restricted tag				

*DMU 117 has a limit of ONE antlered deer.

Youth hunters 16 and younger, individuals licensed under the mentored hunting program, and apprentice license holders are exempt from APRs in all seasons, in all deer management units and under all licenses, which also includes the four-point APR on the restricted tag. A legal antlered deer is one with one antler 3 inches or longer. **If a youth hunter turns 17 during the season (or prior to it), they must follow APRs.**

Finance & Operations Division

Sean Sundholm, Western UP Administrative Area Manager

- A new roofing project for the Crystal Falls Field Office has kicked off. UP Architects and Engineers (UPAE) was the best value bidder chosen for phase 100 study. We have had a 90% design meeting. A design has been chosen and we are working on funding sources to proceed with project.
- Our offices are in the middle of the 2025 license season and we are in full swing, with trail permits, ORV license, state park passport sales and fishing licenses.
- Along with daily operations, many of our Western Upper Peninsula (WUP) staff have been engaged on committees looking at future customer service needs.
- Area managers have been working on developing and completing multiple minor construction projects (LED lighting, solar applications, general facility renovations, health, and safety improvements, card access systems) throughout the state.
- Our Escanaba CSC had a contractor pre-bid walkthrough on the 15 of April for a solar panel project for the CSC. The want is for a 2,000 sq ft solar panel array. Harvest solar is the contractor. The system is currently being designed with a march 2026 substantial completion date.
- All of the western Upper Peninsula Customer Service Centers and field offices are fully staffed.

Becky Fitz, Admin. Assistant, Eastern UP Area/Sault Ste. Marie Customer Service Center

Season Dates & Reminders

- 11/1 Beaver & Otter trapping open in Unit B (for residents)
- 11/1-14 Bobcat trapping open in Unit A and Unit B (must be a MI resident)
- 11/1 Muskrat & Mink trapping open Zone 2; Badger trapping opens in Zone 3
- 11/10 Beaver & Otter trapping open in Unit C (for residents)
- 11/10 Muskrat & Mink trapping open in Zone 3
- 11/10 Five-day firearm restriction “quiet period” begins (see hunting digest p.51)
- 11/14 Badger trapping closes in Zones 1 & 2
- 11/14 Fall Turkey & Early Archery Deer seasons close
- 11/15 Firearm Deer season open (ends 11/30); ORV time restrictions begin
- 11/15 Frog, Toad, and Salamander seasons close
- 12/1 Late Archery Deer season opens 12/1/25-1/1/2026 (No crossbows in the northern UP DMUs without a disability permit)
- 12/1 Ruffed Grouse season re-opens 12/1/25- 1/1/2026
- 12/1 Late pheasant hunt opens 12/1/25-1/1/2026 (see digest p. 5 for open areas)
- 12/1 Pike & Muskie Spearing season opens (see p. 16-17)
- 12/5 Muzzleloader Deer season opens through Dec 14
- 12/5 Fisher and Marten trapping open through Dec 14
- 12/13 Elk Season #2 opens through Dec 21
- 12/10 Bobcat Trapping reopens Unit A and B
- 12/10 Bobcat Trapping open for Units C, D, and G (closes Dec 29)
- 12/10 Bobcat Trapping opens for Unit H (closes Dec 20)
- 12/14 Fisher & Marten trapping close (pelts must be sealed by 12/17/25)
- 12/15 Late Antlerless Firearm Deer season opens through 1/1/26 (see p. 9 for areas)
- 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 2024 Pure Michigan Hunt
- 1/1/26 Apply for Spring Turkey license
- 1/1/26 Bobcat hunting opens (must be a MI resident)
- 1/1/26 Lake Trout & Splake opens for N. Lake Huron and N. Lake Michigan (see p. 21 for limits)
- 1/1/26 Late Season Pheasant closes (portions of Zone 3), and Ruffed Grouse season closes
- 1/2/26 Urban Archery until 1/31 (see p. 8 for counties)
- 1/2/26 Extended late antlerless firearm through 1/11 (see p. 10 for counties)
- 1/3/26 Last day for deer head submissions (1/5/25 if using a drop box)
- 1/8/26 Last day to register bobcat taken by trapping Units C, D & G
- 1/11/26 Bobcat Hunting closes in Unit H
- 1/18/26 Bobcat Trapping closes in Units A & B
- 1/20/26 Bobcat Hunting closes in Unit G
- 1/28/26 Last day to register UP bobcats taken by trapping Units A & B

Fisheries Division

Field Management Units Update

1. Lake Superior Management Unit staff completed stream shocking for Status and Trends fixed and random stations. Staff will begin collection in October for brook trout genetics on streams selected as part of a CSMI study lead by Research Section.
2. Lake Michigan Management Unit staff completed several stream shocking surveys for Status and Trends and discretionary sites. The South Branch Paint River was sampled with the assistance of the Baraga fisheries crew as part of the ongoing muskellunge study. No muskellunge were captured during the survey.
3. Lake Michigan Management Unit staff walleye harvest at Landfill rearing pond and stocked approximately 2,100 large fingerling walleye in Hamilton Lake (Dickinson), S. Groveland Pond (Dickinson), and Deer Lake (Iron).

4. Lake Superior Management Unit staff are working to complete the Big Trout Lake fish barrier removal in Marquette County. This barrier was built in the 1970's to block passage of white suckers entering Big Trout Lake. The structure served its purpose and is no longer necessary to maintain Big Trout Lake as solely a trout fishery.
5. Contractor started removing McApline Trout Pond Dam (Mackinac) on September 15th and should take about 2 weeks.
6. UP fisheries crews are conducting fall index surveys at nighttime for juvenile walleye on several inland lakes and nearshore waters of Lake Superior.
7. Little and Big Bay De Noc fall gill net assessments were completed by staff from Marquette Research, Tribal Coordination Unit, and Lake Michigan Management Unit. Highlight of the survey was the noticeable increase in Coho salmon catch, which has related well with the angler reports and creel survey reports of increased catch rates in Little Bay de Noc and Escanaba River.
8. The H-58 bridge replacement project near Grand Marais on the Sucker River is nearing completion. At the time of this submission of this report, the remaining steps in the construction process were leveling the roadbed, paving the roadway surface, and placement of the guardrails and soil erosion control measures.
9. The Sucker River project team completed and EGLE permit pre-application meeting and is preparing to submit the permit application for the new sea lamprey barrier. The new sea lamprey barrier will 20 miles upstream of Lake Superior opening passage of native species as well as important nongame sport fishes. Construction is set for the summer of 2026.
10. A total of 217 young of year lake sturgeon were stocked out of the streamside rearing trailer and into the Cedar River (Menominee) on August 28th.
11. Lake Michigan Management Unit field staff assisted the Wisconsin DNR with lake sturgeon sampling on the Menominee River from Sturgeon Falls Dam to Faithorn. Approximately 100 lake sturgeon were captured in the six miles reach of river.
12. Operation of the lake sturgeon lift at the Menominee Dam on the Menominee River (Menominee) started on September 3 and concluded on September 25. A total of 108 lake sturgeon were captured with 56 transferred upstream of the Park Mill Dam.

Fish Production Section Update

1. Marquette staff are waiting for fish to ripen to begin spawning lake trout, followed by splake, and then finally brook trout. Typically, lake trout spawning occurs in early October, splake early to mid-October, and brook trout mid to late October.
2. Capital outlay projects for the Marquette Hatchery are progressing as expected. The brood isolation rebuild and boiler/HVAC controls projects are on schedule with a completion date of late October and late September, respectively. The hatchery will reopen to the public once the projects are completed.
3. Backup brood lot of the 2022 Arctic grayling were transferred to Oden State Fish Hatchery.
4. No current fish health issues at Marquette Hatchery lots. Brood inspections and Cherry Creek wild fish collections are being processed by Michigan State University Aquatic Animal Health Lab.
5. Fall fingerling brook trout stocking will begin in mid-October. Twenty-two sites are scheduled to be stocked with fall fingerlings this October with several more surplus brood lake stockings occurring in December.

Fisheries Research Section Update

1. Summer lake trout surveys and nearshore sampling in lakes Michigan and Superior have been completed for 2025.
2. Lake Char will be moved to a shipyard in Sault Ste. Marie, MI for haul out, inspection and maintenance.
3. Management staff continuing to work with Edgewater Resources on conceptual design of a new Marquette Research station/vessel base.
4. Crew is prepping for lake trout spawning reef work in late October.
5. Crew is also prepping for stream electrofishing work for Brook Trout Restoration Area regulations evaluation.
6. Technician staff and boat captains with assistance from Tribal Coordination Unit staff are working on fisheries shop repair work to convert current cold storage into heated workspace to provide additional capacity for winter gear maintenance, etc.
7. Staff continuing lab work on collected aging structures from summer surveys.
8. RV Osmerid was put through sea trials and is deemed fit for service. The vessel made two trips to Isle Royale in support of creel clerks working at island.

9. Isle Royale creel commenced in September. This was the first creel survey conducted on the island since 1998. Data summaries will be drafted this winter following data cleanup and analysis.

Forest Resources Division

Tom Seablom, Western UP District Manager

- Field work for the 2027 Year of Entry (YOE) Inventory season has wrapped up and staff are preparing for the 2028 YOE Inventory season. The Gwinn Compartment Review is scheduled for October 14 at the Marquette Customer Service Center and the Escanaba Compartment Review is scheduled for October 21 at the Escanaba State Office Building. Open House and Compartment Review schedules for the 2028 YOE will be posted online under the public input section along with other state forest inventory information at: www.michigan.gov/forestinput.
- As of September 25, 289 timber sale contracts are open western UP-wide (WUP). This represents 956,900 cords of timber on 52,193 acres, valued at approximately \$31.9 million. Included in this are 32 Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) sales representing 169,865 cords of timber on 9,089 acres, valued at approximately \$5.2 million. As of October 25, 11 sales are available WUP-wide for the minimum advertised price. This represents 22,751 cords of timber. Find more information on state forest timber sales at: www.michigan.gov/timber.
- WUP units are reporting 27 active timber sales in the WUP totaling about 3,745 acres. Sale interest appears to be increasing as more purchasers are bidding on sales in some areas. Winter and difficult to access sales are continuing to receive little interest.
- Commercial Forest (CF) staff are working on following up with reports on potential commercial forest compliance issues, reviewing forest management plans submitted for CF-enrolled lands, and those utilizing the Forest Stewardship Program, reviewing CF withdrawal applications, reviewing cutting notifications/gravel applications and assisting with the conservation easement program. The public-facing Commercial Forest Viewer has also been updated. For this and other information on the Commercial Forest Program go to: www.michigan.gov/commercialforest.
- Forest cultivation staff in the WUP reported:
 - About 100 acres of trenching are complete and ready to plant in 2026 to red pine.
 - About 60 acres of skidder herbicide application to prepare for planting in 2026.
 - About 180 acres of drone herbicide application to prepare for planting in 2026.
 - Regeneration checks are in progress for all sites planted in the spring of 2025 as well as final checks on sites planted in 2023.
 - Scarification for natural jack pine and mixed natural pine over about 200 acres will be wrapped up in the next two weeks or so.
- Fire protection staff reported 1 fire which burned 0.1 acre during August and September. There has been rain across the region every few days keeping fuels from drying out. No prescribed burns have taken place since fuels have not dried sufficiently enough for ideal burning before the next bout of rain sets in.
- The UP is setting in for a normal fall fire season. The fire day has shortened considerably, and fuels conditions are such that significant fire activity is not expected currently. If there is a long period without rain that may change but the UP is on track for quiet fall fire season. Assistance will likely be provided to the lower peninsula if fires become an issue in the coming weeks as their drought codes/drying of fuels are very high for this time of year.
- To date, 47 staff from the state have been dispatched to assist with wildfires in Texas, North Carolina, Manitoba, Alaska, California, Colorado, and Montana.
- Forest health staff report that aerial forest health surveys were completed across the WUP, excluding the national forest lands. Scattered, isolated pockets of spruce budworm defoliation were mapped primarily in the Keweenaw peninsula and along the Lake Superior shoreline west of Big Bay. Very little damage of other types were mapped this year. We continue to detect oak wilt in areas several miles from the historically positive locations near the Wisconsin border. Following confirmations in northern Iron and Marquette Counties last year, oak wilt was

confirmed in a single tree in western Delta County this year. We are prioritizing these outlying locations in efforts to treat known pockets of oak wilt. Confirmed oak wilt locations and other Forest Health information can be found at: www.michigan.gov/foresthealth.

Scott Lakosky, Eastern UP District Manager

Timber Sales

- Newberry FMU
 - 4 sales offered in past 2 months, all no bid. Two sales were later sold at minimum bid price while 2 remain unsold. Sales contain a mixture of species and products and some low ground. Competition for stumpage is low.
 - Timber sale activity has picked up in recent months. Currently 6 active sales and 4 others that have recently been active.
 - Staff nearly complete with FY2025 work and harvest proposals are being drafted for bid. Newberry prepared nearly 3,000 acres this fiscal year. In addition, staff have been working on nearly 1,000 acres of GNA timber prep on the east zone of Hiawatha.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
 - 3 bid openings in August; 4 timber sales sold and 2 no bid sales. Sold sales were dominated with hardwood products, two of which were GNA timber sales in the Hulbert Area. Two no bid sales were both cedar research sales.
 - Logging activity remains low with only a handful of jobs being harvested at this time.
 - Staff are wrapping up field work for their FY2025 sales and are aiming to complete work on those sales by October 1.
- Shingleton FMU
 - No sales offered since last report.
 - Timber sale activity remains relatively slow on the units, with only a few active sales in the summer months.
 - Word of mouth reports of an increase in pulp demand at the mill, but no increase in prices.
 - Producers continue to report challenges in recruitment and retention of qualified operators.

Forest Inventory

- Sault Ste. Marie and Shingleton open houses were held at their respective offices in late August/early September. Public participants included two members of the public at the Sault and one member of the public at Shingleton.
- Newberry FMU is currently soliciting public input virtually via the Michigan State Forest Application until September 30. An open house is scheduled for September 30 from 3:00–6:00pm at the Newberry Customer Service Center.
- Compartment review meetings are scheduled for the month of October.
 - Sault Ste. Marie FMU: October 2 at the Sault Customer Service Center
 - Shingleton FMU: October 9 at the Shingleton Field Office
 - Newberry FMU: October 28 at the Newberry Customer Service Center

Cultivation

- Newberry FMU
 - Rollerchopping, trenching and scarification are completed for the year.
 - Contractors picked 122 bushels of red pinecones on state land in North Luce County. Additional cones have been collected from a seed orchard in Schoolcraft County. Cones will be delivered to a DNR facility in Brighton for seed extraction. Collected seed will be used for growing seedlings for reforestation projects.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU: 2025 cultivation work is completed. Looking at opportunities to start 2026 work if equipment availability and weather conditions allow.
- Shingleton FMU: Trenching and rollerchopping work complete for the year with one scarification site to complete this season.

Fire

- Newberry FMU
 - No local reportable wildfire response in the unit or prescribed burn since the last report.
 - Two staff dispatched out of state: 1 in Washington State and 1 in Montana.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU

- Unit fire officers(FO) attended the United Way-Project Backpack Drive with Smokey Bear. Assisted many emergency services agencies and local business from Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac Counties with handing out over 400 backpacks filled with school supplies to the community.
- Fire supervisor spent 14 days as a division supervisor with the Eastern Area Complex Incident Management Team in Northern Nevada on a 133,000-acre wildfire.
- One FO spent three weeks in Southern California as an Engine Boss on an MDNR Engine.
- Two FOs spent two weeks in Southern California. One as a Heavy Equipment Boss and the other as a Heavy Equipment Boss Trainee.
- One FO spent 2 weeks in western Montana as an Engine Boss on an MDNR Engine.
- Shingleton FMU: 2 local wildfires since the last report; both lightning strike fires less than 1/10th acre in size.

Road and Bridge

- Newberry FMU
 - Local staff completed repairing, grading and culvert monitoring on four miles of Camp 6 road.
 - A washout on Charcoal Grade repaired with stabilizing rock.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
 - Contractor started work on the McAlpine Dam removal project in Mackinac County on September 15 with an expected completion date of October 1.
- Shingleton FMU: Local staff continued work on a road project on the Eklund Road in Schoolcraft County; lifting, capping and providing cross drainage.

Facilities

- An open house was held at the new Newberry Customer Service Center for the public with various department staff and external stakeholder groups showcasing the new facility and the various natural resources work in the eastern UP (EUP) and statewide. The event was well attended by the public.
- The Manistique fire shop sustained damage from an attic fire in late August. The building is being evaluated for repairs. No one was injured and all equipment in the building was able to be removed without damage.

Land Use

- A small structure that had been constructed in trespass on state-owned land in Mackinac County was removed through voluntary compliance.
- Several trespass notice letters were sent out to landowners notifying them of encroachment that have occurred on public lands with hope of working with them to voluntarily resolve the issues.

Forest Certification

- Annual forest re-certification external audit scheduled for the week of October 6 with both Lansing office visits and field visits scheduled to occur. Newberry, Cadillac, and Traverse City forest management units have field tours scheduled.

Forest Health

- Aerial forest health survey efforts were completed across the EUP. Scattered jack pine budworm defoliation was mapped in western Luce and Schoolcraft counties. Very little damage of other types was mapped this year.

Commercial Forest (District Service Forester)

- Field inspections.
- New CF enrollment review.
- Reviewing and approving forest management plans.
- Working with LED for commercial forest compliance inspections.

Training

- S-211 (portable pumps and water use), L-380 (fireline leadership), and M-410 (facilitative instructor) classes are being planned at this time and tentatively being held October–December 2025.
- Staff attending from the EUP will be based on class size and availability.
- Various EUP forestry staff attended invasive species training.

Vacancies/New Hires

- Forestry summer interns completed their summer season and have returned to college. 2 were posted to the Newberry FMU and 1 in the Shingleton FMU.
- 1 Forest Technician and 1 Forester vacancy in the Newberry FMU.
- 1 Forest Technician and 1 Forest Fire Officer vacancy in the Shingleton FMU.

Law Enforcement Division

Lt. Ryan Aho, District 1 (Western UP) Law Supervisor

- **CO Jenni Lehto** assisted Gogebic County deputies on a motorcycle crash in Ironwood Township. Two riders were severely injured when their motorcycle hit a deer. Both victims were airlifted to a trauma center.
- **CO John Kamps** contacted an angler on the Yellow Dog River who did not have a fishing license in possession. The angler assured CO Kamps that his license was in his truck. With no radio coverage to run the subject's name for a license on scene, CO Kamps walked back to his patrol truck to find out that the individual had not purchased a license for the past few years. The CO re-contacted the angler and issued him a citation for fishing without a license.
- **CO Alex VanWagner and PCO Olivia Haerr** worked a night shift and observed a three-wheeler in Caspian traveling with no headlight and a male subject operating without a helmet on. The COs observed something on the back of the three-wheeler but couldn't tell if it was a person or not due to it being dark. The all-terrain vehicle (ATV) was observed traveling at a high rate of speed through town and disregarded a stop sign. The COs located the ATV parked in the weeds near a business in town with the operator and female subject attempting to hide near the ATV. Both subjects showed signs of intoxication. Standardized Field Sobriety tests (SFSTs) were administered to the operator and a preliminary breath test (PBT) sample was given. The operator was arrested for operating while intoxicated (OWI), taken for a legal blood draw, and lodged in the Iron County Jail. A report was forwarded to the prosecutor's office for review.
- In rural Menominee County, **CO Steve Sajtar** assisted a Michigan State Police (MSP) trooper with a trespassing complaint. A homeowner had called 911 after seeing an unfamiliar male peeping into the homeowner's windows around 11:00 PM central standard time. The homeowner was armed and had told the suspect to leave several times, but the suspect refused. The CO, trooper, and a Menominee County sheriff deputy arrived on scene and observed the subject still standing on the homeowner's porch. The suspect admitted to driving an off-road vehicle (ORV) from approximately 20 miles away while intoxicated. The suspect also admitted to peeping in the homeowner's window to watch one of the children inside the residence. When CO Sajtar ran a file on the suspect, Menominee County Central Dispatch advised the suspect was known to be a violent gang member in the State of Virginia. The suspect was arrested for disorderly conduct and criminal trespassing. The investigation was turned over to Menominee County Sheriff's Office for further investigation.
- While patrolling Iron County lakes over Labor Day weekend, **CO Anna Viau** and **Sgt. Brian Bacon** observed two kayaks fishing along the shoreline. Upon contacting the couple, the officers discovered that the woman did not have a fishing license, and the man did not have a PFD. The woman was upset because she had told her husband to buy a fishing license for her too. A citation was issued for no PFD and a verbal warning for no fishing license.
- After checking marine activity in the City of Menominee, **CO Steve Sajtar** responded to a motor vehicle hit-and-run at the Menominee Marina. CO Sajtar arrived on scene and investigated. After interviewing the victim at the scene, CO Sajtar developed a detailed description of the suspect's vehicle that fled the scene. The victim also stated the suspect appeared to be intoxicated at the time of the crash. CO Sajtar eventually located the suspect's vehicle parked behind a nearby motel building. Damage to the suspect's vehicle was consistent with the damage found on the victim's vehicle. CO Sajtar contacted the suspect inside the motel for an interview. The suspect admitted to backing into the victim's vehicle and driving away before reporting the crash. The suspect's driver's license was suspended and had multiple non-extraditable felony warrants out of various states. A report was submitted to the Menominee County Prosecutor's Office requesting charges for driving while suspended, no insurance, and failing to report a crash.

- In Menominee County, CO **Steve Sajtar** assisted with two separate water rescues on Lake Michigan. On CO Sajtar's day off, he received notification from Menominee County Central Dispatch that a 13-year-old juvenile was actively drowning in the Menominee River near Lake Michigan. CO Sajtar responded to the scene and assisted local fire and rescue personnel. The 13-year-old did not survive, and the investigation was turned over to the Marinette Police Department. Later in the week, CO Sajtar responded to another water rescue on his next day off. CO Sajtar was notified by central dispatch of a mother and daughter who had overturned their kayak approximately four miles offshore on Lake Michigan. CO Sajtar responded to the scene and assisted Menominee County Sheriff's Office with the search and rescue of both the mother and daughter. Both mother and daughter were rescued from the water and transported to shore where they were treated for hypothermia by emergency medical services (EMS). The kayak and paddle were also retrieved from Lake Michigan and returned to the mother and daughter.
- **PCO Evan White** and **CO Phil Helminen** received a call from dispatch about two females fighting and one grabbed a rubber mallet and was hitting a vehicle. Once on scene the COs separated the individuals. After speaking with them, it was determined that one had punched the other and caused damage to personal property. One female was arrested for domestic violence.
- **PCO Evan White** and **CO Phil Helminen** were on marine patrol when COs stopped two different groups of kayakers. When speaking with them, it was determined that none of them had PFDs with them. Enforcement actions were taken.
- **Sgt. Mark Leadman** was checking boats at the Goose Lake Access Site when a boat came in with an expired boat registration from 2018. The subject admitted to purchasing the boat three years ago and hadn't gotten around to getting it registered. The trailer used to tow the boat was also lacking the required license plate. A citation was issued for operating a boat with an expired registration and a warning was given for not having the trailer plate.

Acting Lt. Calvin Smith, District 2 (Eastern UP) Law Supervisor

- The three new conservation officers are about halfway through their field training and are doing well. Look for them to be working in their assigned Counties by the end of November.
- D2 officers are busy enforcing small game, waterfowl, and bear season regulations along with ORV and Boating laws.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 7-06-2025 - 7-19-2025

- While on routine patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn** and **PCO Alex French** observed a salmon boat that was possibly fishing with too many lines. Upon checking the angler, it was determined that he had one extra line out. A citation was issued for the violation.
- While checking a remote campground, **CO Robert Freeborn** and **PCO Alex French** observed a couple surf fishing. Once contact was made, it was determined one of the anglers did not have a license. A citation was issued for the violation.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was on patrol when he observed a vehicle parked near Forest Lake Dam. CO Maki went to a vantage point and observed three men, two of which were actively fishing. CO Maki observed the anglers for a while before making contact. When CO Maki asked for their fishing licenses, only one could provide a license and the other admitted he did not have one. CO Maki took enforcement action and issued a citation to the unlicensed angler.
- **COs in Districts 2 and 3** participated in joint patrols on and around Mackinac Island during the finish of the Bayview Yacht races. COs assisted Mackinac Island State Harbor and patrolled the marina for violations and safety issues. Fortunately, no major issues were observed.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 7-20-2025 - 8-2-2025

- While on patrol near Mackinac Island for sailboat races, **COs Robert Freeborn, Mike Olesen,** and **PCO Alex French** observed a rubber dingy on Lake Huron with no registration. After contacting the operator, it was determined the operator did not have the vessel registered and did not have a personal flotation device (PFD) on board. PCO Alex French issued a citation for no PFD and a warning for failure to register a watercraft. During the same patrol, another

sailboat was observed without a registration. Upon further investigation it was determined the owner had not registered the vessel since 2008. A citation was issued for failing to register his vessel.

- **CO Mike Olesen** was off duty when he observed black smoke coming from an area in Chippewa County. CO Olesen began his shift and immediately went to the scene where house debris such as couches and mattresses were being burnt. CO Olesen cited the subject who started the fire for illegal disposal of solid waste.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on patrol in Chippewa County when he was checking an area commonly fished for salmon and had received complaints in the past of individuals snagging fish. CO Olesen surveyed the area and observed an individual attempting to snag salmon. Contact with the angler was made and they were also found to be in possession of a snagging hook. CO Olesen cited the individual for possession of a snagging hook and attempting to snag salmon.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on marine patrol on the St. Mary's River when he came across a vessel being followed by a group of swimmers, later discovered to be a memorial swim for the Edmund Fitzgerald. While observing the swimmers, it was apparent that they had diverted from their escort vessel. CO Olesen noticed a powerboat approaching at high speed. CO Olesen positioned his patrol vessel between the swimmers and oncoming vessel to ensure the boater stayed a safe distance from those swimming.
- **COs Scott Pankow** and **Justin Vinson** assisted with establishing and enforcing a security zone along the Mackinac Bridge during the Swim the Mack event. The event provides an opportunity for individuals to swim the Straits of Mackinac. The conditions were perfect, and all swimmers made the swim successfully.

Marketing & Outreach Division

Jon Spieles, Chief of Marketing & Outreach Division (MOD)

- **Range Activities:** Construction underway on additional concrete pad and new shooting line structure at Echo Point State Shooting Range. Construction on berm and shooting structure rehabilitation continues at the Island Lake State Shooting Range. Design for an archery range at Waterloo Recreation Area is progressing with plans to go to bid this fall. A new Roscommon range that is in the design phase will be a partnership with Ogemaw Hills Sportsman's Association which passed a resolution confirming their commitment to operate the range under a lease agreement once constructed.
- **State Park and Hatchery Visitor Centers:** We have made 219,464 contacts at our 11 Visitor Centers this summer despite renovation closures at several sites. Contacts include public programs, school programs, informal interpretation and visitor center attendees. Transitioning attendance and participation from park campers and day visitors to school programs is now in full swing. Staff are also transitioning as seasonal staff return to college. Nature Awaits programming begins a new school season with an exciting 40% increase in reservations to date.
- **Visitor Center Renovation** continues at Gillette Visitor Center at Hoffmaster State Park, the Eddy Discovery Center at Waterloo State Park, Hartwick Pines Visitor Center and at the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery Visitor Center in Mattawan. The Porcupine Mountains Visitor Center is reopened following extensive renovations. Some remaining work is ongoing with exhibits being installed as they are completed, including a wolf/coyote display, black bear display, hands-on microscope and a new park movie.
- **Salmon in the Classroom** program is active in nearly 800 classrooms around Michigan preparing to receive eggs. The program will introduce more than 36,000 students to Great Lakes ecology and connects them directly to their local streams when they wade in and release the fish they raised through the year.
- **Stepping Stones Program** staff conducted summertime outdoor recreation programming for over 450 youth participants this summer and overall, the program has reached nearly 14,800 urban and suburban families and youth.

- **Upper Peninsula Pocket Park:** Jalen Sims and team DNR won the 2025 UP State Fair Best Government Agency Exhibit. All DNR divisions contributed to a week of positive interactions with park visitors and provided opportunities to experience fishing, shooting sports, and other educational activities related to our work.
- **Social media:** The first “Sturgeon Week” was a popular theme on DNR social media channels, resulting in 403,000 impressions, reaching 360,000 people. Following Sturgeon Week, we coordinated with the governor’s office on “Big Fish Week,” which included Gov. Whitmer showing off her fishing license. Big Fish Week also featured Master Angler fish going head-to-head, tournament-bracket style. The finals featured bluegill vs. lake sturgeon, with the lake sturgeon voted as the winner. Collaborating with partners, MOD staff is creating some wild game cooking videos for social media to promote deer and waterfowl seasons. MOD is also working with the Urban and Community Forestry team in the Forest Resources Division to promote awareness of tree care in urban areas.
- **GovDelivery:** A snapshot of our email communications via GovDelivery:
 - Email subscribers: about 2.5 million (has grown more than 7% over the last year).
 - Emails sent: In August/September – 180 emails sent, reaching about 11 million recipients. Over the past year – 1,101 emails sent, reaching almost 106 million recipients.
- **RecSearch Going Strong:** In July, the new RecSearch website had 1.2 million page views! DTMB is working on adding redirects for pages from the old site, which will make page views even higher in coming months.
- **The Second Tech Summit** hosted by the MOD Tech Section at the Glassen Center on July 7 brought together DNR staff, DTMB representatives, and various vendors to discuss new technological advances. Key topics included the use of license plate readers, trailer monitoring systems, and customer count technology, as well as weather alert systems. Additionally, the Tech Section is currently working on developing a DNR connectivity policy. This policy is being informed by ongoing efforts to coordinate the transition of state sites from AT&T to Lumen, balancing site needs with cost, and a review of what an 800 DNR phone number would look like.
- **License Sales System:** Staff successfully auto-renewed subscriptions for August customers. We also collaborated with our sales system vendor to outline future enhancements, which will include features like eHarvest tags, mobile improvements, and updates for POS agents. An upcoming production release will introduce new functionalities such as a customer-facing mobile application, Law Enforcement Division mobile app improvements, and an updated refund process. The release will also include updated security libraries and configuration changes for the spring turkey harvest report.

Parks & Recreation Division

Eric Cowing, Eastern UP District Supervisor

Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island

- Brimley utility improvement (waterline/storm water replacement): Campground and day use opened June 19. Contractor is scheduled to be back onsite October 1-17 to complete punch list items that could not be completed after June 19 due to heavy use.
- All units have been losing seasonal (summer) positions due mostly to college.
- Brimley: Since the June 19 park opening to Labor Day, Brimley has been at or near 100% occupancy on weekends, with only a few vacancies during the weekdays.
- DeTour State Harbor: Transient slip nights were down due to the delayed opening caused by the electrical upgrade issues.
- Lime Island Recreation Area: Cabin rentals were up by 41 nights compared to 2024.
- Munuscong State Forest Campground traffic has been busy with the fall season- early goose season, small game opener, bear season and fall fishing opportunities.
- Some short-term workers are done for the season or working part-time due to college at all units. The last day for all short-term workers still working is October 11.
- Brimley State Park is hosting its Harvest Fest weekend September 26-27. All campsites are reserved.
- Staff have been receiving numerous calls about fall camping and when the peak fall color will be.
- Brimley State Park’s last day for modern camping will be the night of October 14.

- DeTour Harbor: The last day for modern amenities will be September 30.
- Lime Island Recreation Area is closed for the season and staff are currently working on the winterization of the facility.

Indian Lake and Palms Book State Parks

- Indian Lake State Park construction of the new toilet shower building has started.
- The removal of the old toilet shower building is complete and the footing and block work for the new one is complete.
- Consultants are working with EGLE on procedures for removal of the sludge from the lagoon.
- Seul Choix keepers house and boat house shingle replacement project received one bid. Working with DTMB to move forward with this project.
- Most of the summer staff have departed for the season.
- Indian Lake State Park staff have been working on restoration of campsite by adding topsoil and seeding of sites while the campground remains closed.

Muskallonge Lake State Park

- Construction of the new accessible boardwalk has been completed at the Lake Superior overlook day-use area and is now open to the public.
- The campground road paving project is wrapping up and at about 95% complete. A substantial completion meeting with the project team has been scheduled for September 25. The campground remains closed during this construction.
- Design and engineering (90%) remains in progress for the wastewater/water distribution upgrades.
- Seasonal short-term worker positions: we are now at about half staffing and the remaining positions will end in the first week of October.
- All ranger positions are filled at this time.
- Muskallonge Lake State Park campground is currently closed due to road paving construction. The boat launch, day-use, and Lake Superior overlook are open.
- State forest campgrounds remain busy, with attendance slightly up from average.

Newberry Field Office

- Thompson Christmas tree site sand removal and improvement project.
- State forest campground and boating access site hazard tree removal.
- Working with HR on lead ranger position vacancy.
- State forest campgrounds are seeing use from bear and small game hunters as well as fall color tour visitors.

Straits State Park

- Straits State Park has a design project build underway for solar energy which will power the north campground and headquarters.
- The Father Marquette (Heart of Great Turtle Island) learnings common building and pow wow grounds upgrade project is underway.
- Mackinac Island Harbor will be getting 40 new caps to replace failing caps on the cement retaining wall.
- We were unable to fill one temporary position at Mackinac Island Harbor.
- Tractor Show: First weekend of September.
- Truck Show: Second weekend of September.
- Trek the Mac: Third weekend of September.
- Despite the slow start the campground picked up filling most Thursdays-Sunday.
- Harbor boating has picked up for the summer and lots of day boats are showing up.

Tahquamenon Falls State Park

- Upper Falls Brink Overlook: Continues to be under construction with the current substantial completion date of November 1. Park staff are hopeful the project will wrap up before winter. The brink viewing platform is closed during construction, but the Upper Falls Unit remains open, including the three main viewing areas from above and the gorge steps.

- Seasonal summer park workers will be done for the season on October 11, leaving only career ranger staff to perform day-to-day work through the color season and into the project/park shutdown season.
- The park hosted the inaugural “Falls to Falls” race on September 20. This grueling 9-mile trail run starts and ends at the Upper Falls and features views of both sets of waterfalls.
- After a one-year break due to construction, the park is again hosting a harvest festival weekend on September 27. Activities featured include pumpkin carving, campsite decorating, hayrides, archery shoot, a costume parade, and trick or treating.
- Road construction on M-123 continues to cause some traffic delays in the area.
- Color season appears to be arriving a little early this year.

Doug Rich, Western UP District Supervisor

Camping

- McLain State Park: Campsites 1-91 are still without power with semi-modern rates. Engineering is underway for the eventual replacement of the electrical system on those sites.
- Bewabic State Park: Had 2 loops closed, final loop closed after Labor Day for camping for ARPA construction/improvements
- Escanaba Field Office: Unit staff replaced the kiosk at Anderson Lake State Forest Campground, as well as replaced the toilet buildings of Anderson Lake State Forest Campground. Staff have completed a lot of brushing at all unit campgrounds, as well as limbing, and stumping.
- Baraga Field Office: Expanded parking lot at Porkies campground store, gravel and landscape work at white pine extension in the Porkies, brushed and landscaping at the outdoor shooting range at the Lake Superior Sportsmen’s Club range.
- Craig Lake State Park: Backcountry camping at Craig Lake State Park is up over 10% from the same timeframe as last year. Craig Lake has now been found by the public!
- Fort Wilkins Historic State Park: East Campground closed for electrical updates
- Baraga State Park: Camping has been up from 2024 approx. 8% and SFCG nights at Big Eric's and King Lake have also been up since last season.
- Twin Lakes State Park: Campground is closed for the 2025 camping season for ARPA construction.
- Van Riper State Park: No significant changes for the July/August camping timeframe. Camping is up about 3.7%.
- Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park: White Pine Outpost Campground, had major renovation to accommodate larger units and better stormwater drainage.
- Lake Gogebic State Park: The Campground was shut down on 8/18 to begin our ARPA construction project.



Overnight Lodging

- Baraga State Park: Mini cabin use is up 4% over 2024.
- Craig Lake State Park: Overnight lodging, including both cabins and yurts, at Craig Lake State Park are up 5% from the same timeframe as last year.



Boating Access Sites and Harbors

- Lake Gogebic State Park: Rangers were shifted from park operations to boating access project when the campground was closed for construction. Projects include re-roofing vault toilets, minor repairs, painting, signage and site trimming.
- Baraga Field Office: Removed hazardous rocks at Big Lake campground.
- Escanaba Field Office : Unit staff have begun road improvement projects at Anderson Lake Boating access site and have completed brushing and limbing as well as stumping at unit access sites. High rainfall this season continued to be maintenance drivers, with staff spending more time on mowers than in recent years.



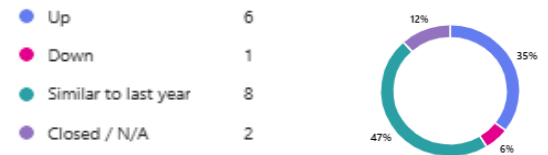
Trails

- Baraga Field Office: Lifted the trail and installed several culverts on the BN trail north of Donken.
- Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park: Snowmobile club has replaced 5 culverts on Trail 1.
- Baraga State Park: There have been a lot of ORVs and Side by Sides in the park and trail use has been high.
- Escanaba Field Office: Unit staff have begun working on brushing of Anderson Lake Pathway, a yearly maintenance item prior to cross-country ski grooming season.



Day Use

- McLain State Park: McLain State Park's new playground has increased the visitation to our day use since its installation in June.
- Fort Wilkins Historic State Park: The unit will have a partial closure for electrical upgrades to day-use toilet/shower building and pavilion. Day use numbers have been strong.
- Baraga State Park: Day use on the non-motorized trail and in the park day use has been up over 2024.
- Twin Lakes State Park: Twin Lakes State Park's Day use numbers are down due to construction in the campground.
- Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew: The Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew refurbished the trailside shelter at J.W. Wells State Park during the month of July. This project included creating a completely new roof, shelves benches, fire brick and motor work. See attached photos. The Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew re-shingled the hospital building at Fort Wilkins State Park in August as well as the old manager's garage at Lake Gogebic. See attached.
- Bond Falls Scenic Site: Bond Falls has been very busy and is up 6% over 2024. There were a few event permit weddings and applications for 2026 are already coming in.
- Baraga Field Office: Finished our part of the Houghton-Douglass Falls parking lot project, which leverage more trail work by contractor.



Design, Construction, Capital Outlay and ARPA Projects

- McLain State Park: McLain State Park is currently in phase 500 of the engineering for the electrical replacement for sites 1-91. Houghton-Douglass Falls Veterans Memorial Scenic Site construction is underway. The Phase 1 project should be finished ahead of schedule. This includes the paved entrance and parking lot, pedestrian bridge across Hammel Creek, and ADA accessible trail from the parking lot to the bridge.
- Bewabic State Park: Bathroom building is in the works, road construction and improvements coming along.
- Little Presque Isle State Forest Recreation Area: Trail work at Little Presque Isle is wrapping up and the contractors, engineering company and DNR have met to determine substantial completion for the projects. There is a little work to be completed yet but it is anticipated to be wrapped up soon.
- Van Riper State Park: Progress is being made on the Wastewater Study at Van Riper State Park. Some critical infrastructure that needed to be located has been found and options are being laid out for repair and/or replacement.
- Fort Wilkins Historic State Park: Electrical and campsite upgrade project on schedule, anticipated completion November 14.
- Lake Gogebic State Park: Campground improvement projects began mid-August. Projects include electrical upgrades, site improvements, drainage improvements, and water/sewer upgrades.
- Baraga State Park: The Michigan National Guard re-shingled the roof at the park headquarters in early August over one drill weekend.
- Twin Lakes State Park: Twin Lakes State Park ARPA projects are currently under construction. This includes the replacement of toilet shower building, sewage upgrades, and paving.

Special Events, Volunteer Projects, Accomplishments, Challenges or Personnel News

- Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park's "Porkies 19th annual music festival had a near record attendance with 1,700 guests.

Fort Wilkins Historic Complex Hospital Building
Re-Shingling



Fort Wilkins ARPA Upgrades



Lake Gogebic ARPA Upgrades



Baraga SP Headquarters Roof – Michigan National Guard Drill Weekend



Parks & Recreation Division – UP Trails Section

Ron Yesney, UP Trails Section Supervisor

▪ Peter Costa, Eastern UP

Project Names	Description	Trail Use	Anticipated Completion	October 2025 Update
Haywire Grade - 11 Bridges	Engineer and replace 1 bridge and redeck with a wider surface 10 bridges	ORV/ Snowmobile	TBD	Waiting on engineering approval and NEPA process from the USFS on the redecking of ten bridges.
Trail 8 - 3 Bridges	Engineer and replace 3 bridges	Snowmobile	2025	Construction at substantial completion on last crossing. Working on punch list.
Grass Creek Bridge – Snow Trail #8	Bridge failing on the Sunrise grade. Design and replacement needed.	Snowmobile	TBD	Waiting on funding.
Betsy River Bridge – Snow Trail #452	Large bridge failing north of Paradise. Design and replacement needed.	Snowmobile	TBD	Waiting on funding.
Sunrise Grade – Snow Trail #8 LFRHW Crossing	Failing bridge on Snow Trail #8. Design, engineering and construction needed to relace	Snowmobile	TBD	Waiting on funding.

▪ Rob Katona, Central UP

Project Names	Description	Trail Use	Anticipated Completion	October 2025 Update
ORV Route Improvements & Grading Alger, Delta, Menominee & Dickinson Counties	Multiple projects for filling holes, grading, gravel surfacing, culvert replacement and minor bridge repairs with multiple grades planned in high use areas to help prevent rough routes.	Rail Trails & ORV Routes	Fall 2025	Last project is wrapping up this week all others are complete.
AuTrain River Bridge Repairs ORV C Route & Snowmobile Trail 418	Perform phase 100 study to determine necessary repairs. Bridge was closed in 2024 due to slumping and safety concerns.	Rail Trails	TBD	Bridge was removed and design review for new structure will be this week.
Nahma Grade Multi-Use Trail	Design and construction 3.7 mile multi-use Rail-Trail in Delta County. Work includes clearing, surfacing and culvert/bridge installation.	Rail trails	TBD	Project will be completed this week.
Clowry Grade Bridge #6	Design and rehab/construction of multiple bridges on this designated ORV/snowmobile multi-use Rail-Trail in Marquette County.	Rail Trails	TBD	No new updates; need additional funding for construction.
Clowry Grade Bridges #1, #4, #5 & #7	Design and rehab/construction of multiple bridges on this designated ORV/snowmobile multi-use Rail-Trail in Marquette County.	Rail Trails	TBD	No new updates.
Little Presque Isle Rec Area Improvements	Trail repairs, parking improvements and boardwalk/bridge repairs throughout 42 sites at LPI recreation area and Wetmore Pond.	Non-Motorized & Mountain Bike	Spring 2025	Project complete.
Days River Single Track Trail Construction	Approximately 10 miles of single track trail construction designed for mountain bike use.	Non-Motorized & Mountain Bike	2027	Environmental submittals continue.
Central UP ORV Dust Control	Perform dust control at multiple sites on ORV routes to prevent dust caused by ORV traffic in residential areas and other areas meeting criteria. Two treatments planned, one for spring and one late summer or early fall.	ORV	Fall 2025	Second treatment completed.

Tyoga Pathway Bridges	Replace one bridge and replace or rehab second bridge both spanning the Laughing Whitefish River.	Non-Motorized	TBD	No new updates.
LPI Songbird Trail & Harlow Creek Bridges	Replace two popular pedestrian bridges on the LPI songbird trail and pathway to cabin #6 and north trail system.	Non-Motorized	TBD	No new updates.
Laughing Whitefish Falls Bridge	New pedestrian bridge is being constructed on NCT over Laughing Whitefish River at the Laughing Whitefish Falls Natural Area.	Non-Motorized	TBD	No new updates.
Genes Pond Pathway	Construction of 1.75 mile accessible pathway with scenic overlooks adjacent to state forest campground located near Ralph in Dickinson County.	Non-Motorized	TBD	Contract in process of being awarded.
Norway Trail Improvements	Trail improvements at multiple sites; work includes surfacing areas prone to washout, hole filling, installing dips and repairs where beaver have impacted the trail.	ORV	Summer 2026	Project complete.
Holli Yard Restoration	Repair a segment of snowmobile trail 8 to improve trail freeze-in and prevent wet/muddy conditions during thaws. Work will also provide an improved surface for ORVs and prevent adjacent wetland impact.	Snowmobile	Late Fall 2025	Project will begin when grant is executed this fall.
Hiawatha NF ORV Routes Proposal	Nearly 100 miles of ORV routes proposed to be designated that would provide connectivity and looped riding across Marquette, Delta, Alger and Schoolcraft Counties.	ORV	TBD	No new updates.
Ishpeming-Negaunee-Sands ORV Routes Proposal	ORV routes that would provide connectivity to several communities and looped riding opportunities in central Marquette County. Proposals are pending securing land permissions and/or trail easements.	ORV	TBD	No new updates.
Negaunee ORV Extension	Extend ORV route in Negaunee along IOHT to provide legal RR crossing and access to roads/routes open to ORVs to the east. Work will include new trail construction and large culvert installation. Snowmobile trail will be relocated off of non-motorized IOHT to new trail segment.	ORV & Snowmobile	Spring 2025	Project complete.
Little Lake-Chatham RR Grade ORV Route Proposal	ORV Designate segments of existing RR grade and county roads to provide ORV connectivity between Chatham and Little Lake and beyond.	ORV	Fall 2025	No new updates.
Eagle Mills-Gwinn-Little Lake ORV Route Proposal	ORV Designate existing snowmobile trails that are already heavily used by ORVs. Designation will allow funding for maintenance and provide direction for community connectivity.	ORV	Summer 2025	No new updates.

▪ **Carly Graff, Western UP**

Project Names	Description	Trail Use	Anticipated Completion	October 2025 Update
Wakefield to Ironwood Connector	Opening the ORV Trail starting in Wakefield and running through Ironwood to Hurley WI.	ORV	Fall 2025	Approved & club is starting with improvements.

Aetna Mine Trail	Opening the Aetna Mine Trail as a connector trail. ORV's are currently driving through the river, funding for a bridge to prevent this.	ORV/ Snowmobile	Fall 2025	Approved.
Misery River Reroute	Reroute around the Misery River when bridge work is being completed.	Rail Trails	TBD	No update, reroute is ready.
Chassell to Houghton Trail	Access storm damage and use of motorized vehicles on trail.	Rail Trails	Ongoing	Received funding to fix washouts and work will be performed in the near future. More signs have been posted as well for no motorized vehicles.
Sidnaw Trailhead	Construction of a trailhead in Sidnaw for ORV and snowmobiles.	ORV/ Snowmobile	2025/2026	No update.
Western UP Dust Control	Perform dust control at multiple sites on ORV routes to prevent dust caused by ORV traffic in residential areas and other areas meeting criteria. Two treatments planned; one for spring and one late summer or early fall.	ORV	Completed	No update.
New Baraga County Trails & Rec Assn ORV Routes	L'Anse to Baraga and Mt. Arvon loops	ORV	2025	Trails have been placed on DNR maps online
Trail 15 Open for Winter	Working with the club to reopen Trail 15 from Baraga north to Chassell	Snowmobile	2025-2026	No update.
Agate Falls/Middle Branch Trestle Reconstruction	Reconstruction of the Agate Bridge	Snowmobile/ ORV	2025	Set to begin soon.
Lake Mary Brushing	Brushing the Lake Mary pathway	Non-motorized	Completed	Awarded more funding to continue with brushing.
Hoar Lake Loop	New snowmobile trail	Snowmobile	2025	Permissions have been acquired, maps completed and put into the Recreation Trail Proposal Database. Awaiting approvals.
South Kelly Lake Road	Snowmobile cut across road	Snowmobile	2025	Permissions have been acquired, maps completed and put into the Recreation Trail Proposal Database. Awaiting approvals.

Wildlife Division

Dave Lemmien, Northern Michigan Wildlife Regional Manager

- **2025 Deer Hunting Preview:** The Wildlife Division has provided a brief overview of recent data, trends, and observations regarding weather conditions, past hunting season results and factors since the prior Michigan hunting season that might affect what hunters will see and experience in the season ahead. These are general overviews of each region and might not reflect conditions at the specific location where you hunt. Bear in mind that insights on Michigan's hunting season results are offered by two different sources. For many years, the Michigan Deer Harvest Survey has been completed by mail following conclusion of the hunting seasons to estimate participation and harvest. Beginning with the 2022 season, successful Michigan deer hunters have been required to report their harvest. You can find summaries of these results and other reports in the deer section of our [Wildlife publications](#) page. Link to deer hunting preview: [2025 deer hunting preview](#).
- **Grouse and Woodcock Season**
 - Early observations from hunters indicate average to good grouse numbers throughout most of the UP, lower in areas of less suitable habitat.
 - Early reports from hunters suggest that warm temperatures and full foliage have made it more difficult to take birds.

- Drumming surveys were re-started two years ago, and results will take a couple more years to provide any true pattern. However, there are indications that the UP may have been at the bottom of the population cycle two years ago and trending back up this year and in coming years.
- Hunters report that resident woodcock are plentiful, and occupying dense, young aspen.

- Summer Waterfowl Banding Results
 - Canada Geese
 - Geese banding stations were set up in Escanaba, Menominee, Sault Ste. Marie, and Baraga in July.
 - 441 Geese were banded and the UP had an initial goal of 300.
 - Wood Ducks and Mallards
 - Duck banding stations were set up in the Escanaba, Naubinway, Brimly and Sault Ste. Marie areas in late July and early August.
 - Banding began in mid-August and wrapped up in late August.
 - ✓ Mallards = 276
 - ✓ Black Ducks = 4
 - ✓ Mallard-Black Duck hybrid = 2
 - ✓ Wood Ducks = 61