



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.

Conservation Officer Appreciation Day in Michigan – March 15

As fully commissioned peace officers who serve a unique role in our state's law enforcement community, Michigan Department of Natural Resources conservation officers receive specialized training to protect natural resources and the people who enjoy them. In honor of the 250 men and women who swore under oath to faithfully enforce the laws of Michigan and the



DNR, and who currently patrol in all 83 counties, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer proclaimed Wednesday, March 15, as Conservation Officer Appreciation Day. **THANK YOU!**

Check Out DNR Jobs Online!



Several seasonal and permanent jobs for the DNR are posted on the State of Michigan Job Openings website. The following link will direct you to those available at the MDNR. Please share!

[Michigan DNR Job Listings](#)



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.

April 16	Forest Resources Division-Baraga Management Unit, Public Comment Period Begins (906-201-4688)
April 19	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, 9am (517-284-5954)
April 19	Michigan Wildlife Council (517-284-6056)
April 20	Board of Foresters, 9am (989-370-9557)
April 21	Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council, 8:30am (517-582-3220)
April 25	Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee, 10am (231-622-3820)
April 26	Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, Newberry (906-226-1331)
April 26	State Parks Advisory Committee, 2pm (517-284-6135)
April 28	Michigan State Waterways Commission, 9am (517-285-0747)
May 11	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing, (517-331-7792)
May 17	Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, Iron Mountain (906-226-1331)
June 13	Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, Newberry (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](#)

April-May	No UP State Park Activities—Check Back in June!
June 10-11	Free ORV Weekend / Free Fishing Weekend
June 17	Fayette Historic State Park – Christmas in June
August 14-21	DNR Pocket Park Open during the UP State Fair in Escanaba – CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING!

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- The good, the bad and the ugly: NotMISpecies webinars take on some of Michigan's least-wanted invaders (4/12/23)
- Herd & Hunter: Bovine TB Connections meeting April 25 (4/12/23)
- DNR hiring for accelerated conservation officer training (4/11/23)
- Conservation officers help family stranded in northern Luce County (4/10/23)
- Gear up for spring fishing; get your 2023 license (4/10/23)
- 'Wildtalk' podcast April episode now available (4/8/23)
- DNR News: Burn permits, history events, volunteer opportunities and more (4/6/23)
- DNR offers variety of sponsorship and partnership opportunities (4/3/23)
- DNR extends snowmobile trail grooming season through upcoming weekend (3/30/23)
- Want to protect, share your forest for generations? (3/30/23)
- Share thoughts at April meetings, fisheries management events (3/30/23)
- Showcasing the DNR: What it all boils down to (3/30/23)
- Bear-havior: Preventing problem bear behavior this spring (3/29/23)
- DNR News: Maple syrup, fly fishing, forest roads and more (3/28/23)
- New aphid could take bite out of invasive garlic mustard (3/28/23)

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** will be meeting on Tuesday, March 21st in person in Marquette. Agenda topics include the following:

- Introductions of New Council Members: Faye Williams, Jeff Sierpien, Lucas Vold, Kelly Bennet Simon, Sue Petschke, Dwaine Starr
- Farewell Wishes to Council Member Dr. Travis Smith (11 years of service)
- Acknowledged Renewing Members: Erik Bessonon, Barb Gajewski, Dave Hall, Chauncey Moran, Horst Schmidt, Kirk Schott, Carol Mason Sherill
- DNR Division Reports
- Annual Election of Officers: New Chair-Mr. Tom Solka and new Vice Chair-Dr. Kirk Schott
- Marquette County Shooting Range Update
- Snowmobile Season Summary to Date
- Snowmobile Ride Right Messaging
- Fisheries Division Conversations & Coffee Events, Fisheries Division Q&A
- Cedar Research Project Input Reminder
- Opportunity for Council Members to Join Committees & Determine Committee Leads
- Fisheries Committee Report: Resolution for Discussion and Consideration: Cormorant Funding & Control (passed unanimously)
- Wildlife Committee Report
- Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 17th in Iron Mountain, 6:00pm Eastern/5:00pm Central
- Items for Next Meeting Agenda: General Theme – Wildlife/Potential Wildlife Orders for NRC
- Public Comments

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

April NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met on the campus of Lansing Community College today in Lansing. Major actions:

- The Commission approved [regulations for the 2023-2024 hunting seasons for migratory birds](#). The department is recommending minor changes to teal season dates to eliminate overlapping seasons.
- The Commission tabled until next month action on [new regulations governing the use of dogs to track wounded big game](#) such as elk, deer and bear.
- Acting Director Shannon Lott approved [a May 2 oil and gas lease auction](#) that would offer 77,000 acres of state managed public land for lease in 15 northern Lower Peninsula counties.

Wildlife Committee

Chad Stewart of the Wildlife Division gave [an overview of deer regulations](#). The Commission will take up discussion of these regulations for 2023 beginning next month. Chad first reviewed the history of the Nov. 15 opening day for firearm deer season, which has been in place since 1925 with the exception of a few years in the 1960s. Deer harvest, hunter participation, and hunter success are all fairly consistent, Chad said, regardless of the day of the week on which Nov. 15 happens to fall. The number of days hunted by individual hunters increases slightly if opening day occurs later in the week. Hunters strongly support a Nov. 15 opener, according to surveys the department conducted in 2009 and 2016. Based on this and data from other states that have changed their opening day, Chad concluded there is no evidence that moving the Nov. 15 opening day or changing the number of weekend dates available will increase harvest, increase participation or retain hunters. In addition, the department plans to revisit the question of banning baiting and feeding in a portion of the U.P., as well as other U.P. specific regulations. The department will also review antler point restriction regulations and allowing the harvest of only one deer during the Liberty Hunt, also known as the youth season. The department is considering recommending allowing the harvest of one antlered deer and one antlerless deer during the Liberty Hunt. The department is considering small changes to harvest reporting requirements and making minor changes to language in the Wildlife Conservation Order related to deer damage permits and permits on North Manitou Island.

Amy Derosier of the Executive Division and Melinda Cosgrove from the Wildlife Division gave [an update on surveillance for chronic wasting disease in the deer population](#). The department continues to sample deer in distinct regions of the state through our rotational sampling approach. This next year, the DNR will be focusing sampling efforts in the northwest part of the state. We have not found CWD in this area, but our goal is to better understand the distribution of the disease. To do this, we need to sample across the state. This approach is focused on early detection. In areas where we are not actively sampling, we will continue to have multiple options for hunter self-submissions. The DNR is partnering with Michigan State University and University of Wisconsin diagnostic laboratories to allow hunters to have their deer tested for a fee. Beginning last year, we provided free testing kits to hunters who wanted their deer tested in counties where CWD had previously been detected. That free testing program will continue in 2023. The DNR will continue to use the data we collect and new research and models to support our surveillance and management and will periodically re-evaluate our efforts as new information becomes available.

Committee of the Whole, Director's Report

The Commission honored former commissioner and former DNR Director Keith Creagh for his service on the commission. Commissioner Creagh was appointed to the board in October 2018 and served through December 2022. During his time as commissioner and DNR director, he worked on the initial delisting of wolves, the creation of the Iron Bell Trail, a variety of Great Lakes issues, strengthening preparations for invasive carp response, and expanding active forest management.

Dustin Isenhoff from the Wildlife Division introduced [this year's winners of the Pure Michigan Hunt](#).

Erik Eklund, chief of our Finance and Operations Division, told the commission [about the governor's recommendations for the DNR budget](#) for Fiscal Year 2024, which begins Oct. 1, 2023.

Fisheries Division Chief Randy Claramunt [detailed the Fisheries Division Strategic Plan for 2023-2029](#).

Cody Norton of the Wildlife Division told the commission about proposed changes to nuisance regulations for furbearers and small game. The department is proposing changes to sections of these regulations that deal with wildlife damage control permits on private property, as well as removal of beaver and beaver dams by road, drain and railroad authorities. Details of these proposed regulations can be found in [Cody's presentation](#). The regulations will be before Director Lott for action next month.

Brian Frawley presented the [preliminary deer harvest survey results for 2022](#). The mailed survey showed that 515,135 hunters were in the field across all deer seasons, 4% fewer than the previous year. The number of 2022 license buyers (586,323) decreased by only 1% year to year. The total number of deer harvested – 331,240 in 2022 – decreased by 16% compared to 2021. This is the first year this traditional mailed harvest survey has been accompanied by electronic mandatory harvest reporting during the season. The report of deer harvested through electronic reporting was 11% less than the harvest estimate through the mailed survey. This was a better outcome than a number of other states Brian surveyed, where the difference between immediate harvest reports and later estimates averaged 52%. Sixty five percent of hunters said the harvest reporting app was easy to use, compared to 17% who said it was hard to use.

Megan Moriarty and Emily Sewell from the Wildlife Division, together with Mike VandeKlok of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, gave [a presentation on bovine tuberculosis monitoring in deer and cattle](#). Since 1975,

the state has tested nearly 350,000 deer in an 11-county area in the northeast Lower Peninsula, with 995 of those deer testing positive for TB. In 2022, our surveillance found 28 deer with the disease. Four of these 2022 positive deer were found outside a five county area of most intensive surveillance for DNR and MDARD, composed of Presque Isle, Montmorency, Alpena, Oscoda and Alcona counties. The group talked about new methods to prevent the spread of tuberculosis between deer and cattle, along with continued cooperation between DNR and MDARD to address the disease.

[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).

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

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

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

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

- The bill was reported with recommendation from the Senate Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary and Public Safety and is awaiting a vote on the Senate floor.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HB 4155 – Modify Penalties for Certain Deer Hunting Violations – Rep. Beson: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to modify the following deer hunting violations to a civil infraction with a fine of not more than \$100.00; baiting of deer or the taking of deer over bait; or the reporting of a deer harvest or the retention of a deer harvest confirmation number.

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

HB 4159 – Designate Official State Butterfly - Rep. Brixie: This bill would designate the black swallowtail butterfly as the official butterfly of the state of Michigan.

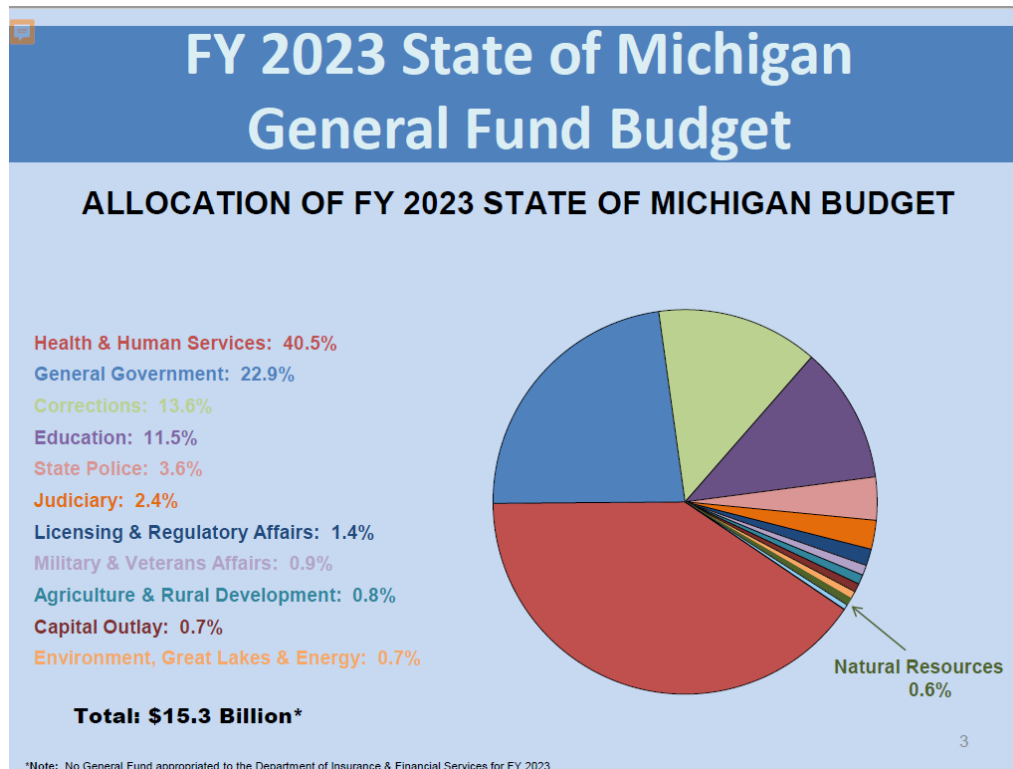
- The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

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

Executive Division: Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy

From the NRC presentation by Erik Eklund, Chief of Finance and Operations Division, who updated the commission [about the governor's recommendations for the DNR budget](#) for Fiscal Year 2024, which begins Oct. 1, 2023.



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

Project Name: Haywire Grade – 11 Bridges	Project Name: Trail 8 – 3 Bridges	Project Name: Bissel Creek Culvert	Project Name: 20 th 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
Q2 Update: Soil borings for the first bridge we're done before snow depth restricted access. Waiting for access after the winter to begin site visits and inspections of the bridges, USFS to go through the NEPA process once we have gained access and UPEA makes their recommendations.	Q2 Update: All 3 bridges are designed, 2 are advertised for bids and the 3 rd should be advertised soon. On site Pre bid mtgs to be held in late April early May if the sites are accessible, with bids due end of May.	Q2 Update: Bid awarded, and project is scheduled to be started as soon as access is available and load limits allow.	Q2 Update: Funding secured. Project advertised, onsite pre-bid mtgs scheduled for late April due to access. Bids will be due end of May.

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
Q2 Update: Working with local staff to finish this spring.	Q2 Update: Waiting to hear back from construction crew on scheduling for the project work this summer.	Q2 Update: Project advertised. Bids received. More funding needed to award the project.

Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Acting Chief

Web & Social Media

- Google Analytics 4 is being added to e-License to ensure we can continue tracking sales once the old Google Analytics is retired in the coming months. Analytics 4 will use a different method – a tool called Google Tag Manager – which, in theory, will give us more control over what and how it tracks.
- Our April Fools’ Day post aimed at increasing Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app awareness was very well received. It helped generate 1,600 additional app downloads over the April 1 weekend.
- The spring convention and visitors’ bureau (CVBs) paid partnership will launch early this month. We currently have 30 CVBs on board for this seasonal regional tourism marketing campaign.
- The visibility of our Twitter account has exploded in recent weeks, with our most popular Tweets ever – thanks, bears!

Shooting Sports & R3

- MDNR is co-hosting (with USFWS) the Region 3 Hunter Education Meeting in Lansing the first week of May.
- Other range projects:
 - ~\$3.5 million new indoor range and meeting space at the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park is well under way.
 - ~\$1 million new outdoor range in construction at the Barry State Game Area is about 50% complete.
 - ~\$2 million new outdoor range in construction at Marquette County is about 25% complete.

License Sales & Customer Service Section

- Ten license agents who failed to meet their contractual obligation of achieving \$2,000 in license sales will be notified this week that their accounts will be discontinued.
- Marketing efforts continue for the mobile app. The License Sales team is working with the Marketing team on various strategies to promote the app.

Technology

- MOD Tech Tip 21 on OneDrive scheduled file deletion.
- Completed season 13 Wardens episodes.

Education Services

- Education Services continues to do preliminary work on the Nature Awaits program, The Governors initiative to give all Michigan 4th graders an opportunity to travel to and learn about Michigan State Parks. A website (not active) has been developed along with FAQ’s and talking points.
- Education Services partnered with Law Division to exhibit at the state science teachers conference. About 800 educators came through the exhibit titled “The Science of Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation.” It was the most popular exhibit at the conference. Four DNR staff also presented formal sessions at the conference.

Staffing Changes

- Keaton Lezman joined the help desk on March 20. Keaton joins us from the Traverse City CSC and backfills a help desk position that was vacant since late December 2022.
- Todd Grischke joins the Shooting Sport Section as Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation Specialist for DNR on April 16.

Wildlife Division: Dave Lemmien, UP Wildlife Supervisor

General Wildlife Reminders

- Spread the word! Leave baby animals alone! Young animals are often left alone, but the parents are never far. For example, does leave their fawns for extended periods of time as newborns to help them stay safe from predators. Young animals are rarely abandoned and their best chance for survival is to remain in the wild.
- 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.
- The spring turkey season is April 22 – May 31 in Unit M (the UP), except for hunters with a Hunt 0234 license which may be used May 6 – May 31. Visit Michigan.gov/Turkey for more information and a link to leftover licenses.
- Furbearer registrations have all closed for the 2022 season. Throughout the winter and early spring, staff have registered furbearers by appointment or during office hours at locations open to the public. The registration process allows information about each species to be obtained to help monitor and manage the populations.

Surveys

- During the winter, staff performed the moose aerial population survey conducted over the primary moose range in the western UP. Results from this year's survey can be expected later this spring.
- Sharp-tailed grouse surveys began April 1. The survey window continues into early May. Results of the surveys are used to help monitor the sharp-tail population. Sharp-tailed grouse hunting continues to be an opportunity in portions of eastern Chippewa and Mackinac counties.
- The American woodcock singing-ground survey will begin in the UP starting May 1 (April 25 in southern areas) and go until May 20. Ruffed grouse drumming surveys will be conducted by regional staff between 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".
- Snow is receding but conditions are now above the long-term average of 81 days (since 2004). The 2022-23 winter has had snow greater than 12" deep for more than 100 days, suggesting that this can be considered a severe winter and may impact overwinter deer survival. Recent warm-ups will help to melt the snow, although areas to the north may still have persisting snow amounts. Snow depths are assessed throughout the winter using results available through NOAA.

Projects

- Staff are preparing for upcoming field work including maintaining hunter walking trails, seeding plots, planting mast producing trees and shrubs for wildlife, maintaining dam and other infrastructure and recreational access to sites, road/parking lot improvements, and state forest compartment planning.
- Staff are busy planning tree and shrub planting events with partners on Drummond Island and in Luce County later this spring. In addition, staff in Newberry are planning a youth trapping workshop in early May in Newberry.

Additional

- The Sault Ste. Marie office has hired a permanent wildlife technician. Please welcome Rachel Leggett to our ranks!
- Seasonal wildlife assistants will soon be coming on staff at each office to assist with nuisance wildlife calls, surveys, habitat management projects, and maintenance activities.

Finance & Operations: Michelle Douglas, Eastern UP

- DNR Employee – All meetings are being held throughout the state with the Director Shannon Lott, and the Deputies. The Upper Peninsula meetings will be held in Marquette and Sault Ste. Marie, April 20th and 21st, respectively.
- The award of the construction manager contract for the Newberry mass timber office project was awarded to Walbridge, LLC of Kalamazoo. Walbridge's responsibility, as the construction manager, will be to provide the DNR with the finished building. There will be a kickoff meeting soon with DTMB, DNR, Walbridge, and the architectural firm, Lord Aeck Sargent (LAS) and the DNR facility manager for Newberry anticipate receiving a timeline for the project at that meeting or shortly thereafter. The DNR fully expects to break ground this spring.

Season Dates for April & May 2023 (See guides on pages noted for more detail)

- 4/10 – Last day to register non-incidental Otter – see p. 12 in Fur Digest for all deadlines
- 4/15 – Dog training closes (also no hunting with dogs)
- 4/22 – Spring turkey opener (for the early hunts – see digest for various unit dates)
- 4/28 – Beaver trapping closes (Units B&C) – Unit A closes on 4/30/23
- 4/29 – Trout opener (inland waters)
- 4/29 – Walleye and Pike season open for lower peninsula inland, except note 3, p.13
- 5/1 – May apply for Bear and Elk hunts; Fur Harvester licenses go on sale
- 5/1 – Can obtain Kill Tags for Otter, Bobcat, Marten, and Fisher (residents only)
- 5/1 – Deadline for returning Incidental trapping seals to DNR
- 5/3 – Last day to register incidental Otter taken in April – see p. 12 for details
- 5/15 – Walleye and Pike open in U.P. inland / U.P. Great Lakes / St. Mary's River
- 5/27 – Bass Opener (Catch and Keep Season)
- 5/27 – Frog, Toad, Salamander seasons open (until 11/15) – see p. 22
- 5/31 – Hand Net & Dip Net seasons close

Public Information Office: John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer, Marquette

- Our Showcasing the DNR feature story series continues each Thursday. To see the story archive visit www.Michigan.gov/DNRStories. We just reached 34,000 weekly subscribers through DNR email.
- Please send story ideas or offers to contribute your writing to the increasingly popular statewide series to me at pepinj@michigan.gov. We are happy to work with new writers. Also, just because you submit a story idea, that doesn't mean you need to write the story.
- We are currently looking for stories to be published from May through August. There must be a ton of things happening that would be cool to highlight, including ARPA construction projects. Please keep me informed of project starts. I want to capture many of these with photos and video. Thank you so much.
- "Ask the DNR" will be broadcasted on April 6 to close out the 2022-2023 season. Dates for the new 2023-2024 season will be available in late summer.

Forest Resources Division: Scott Lakosky, Eastern UP Supervisor

Timber Sales

Newberry FMU

- Newberry had 3 scheduled timber bid dates during February through March. Seven separate timber sales were offered. One went no bid, it was a lowland sale that needs to be cut in the winter. The other 6 sales sold with very solid interest; they were all upland sales with good access.
- Some winter logging sales were completed; however, some areas were difficult to operate. Winter thaws caused standing water in marshy areas and would not freeze. County road limit restrictions went into effect in early March. Loggers have now moved out of the low ground due to spring break-up. Markets have recently slowed down considerably at most major local mills due to several factors.
- 2023 timber sales are being prepped by DNR staff and contractors. Forest inventory is being conducted for 2025 forestry treatment plans.

Sault Ste. Marie FMU

- Offered 4 sales - all sold, had multiple bidders and well over minimum bids. Three sales are on prospectus with a bid date of April 18.
- Sale activity has picked up. Some work started in break-up areas and on sales with all-season access. Still some work on finishing units in winter sales.

Shingleton FMU

- 2 Sales sold since last report, both went well over minimum and had at least one bidder.
- Spring break-up started early but winter held on longer than expected. This pushed most producers into their break-up wood early.
- Several producers are investing in chippers due to increase demand. Very low softwood pulp demand is causing issues with many producers.

Forest Inventory

- All units are continuing to work on completing the 2025 Year of Entry compartments.

Cultivation

- The plan in 2023 for planting in the EUP
 - 333,000 jack pine to be planted on 368 acres in the EUP (mainly Newberry MU)
 - 749,350 red pine to be planted on 828 acres in the EUP
- Planting is scheduled to begin on May 1st and be completed by May 12th. There will be 2 planting crews in the EUP to complete the project.
- The initial number for planting in 2024 includes:
 - 523 acres being planted to jack pine across the Newberry and Shingleton Units
 - 1035 acres to be planted across the EUP
- Release work (both aerial and ground/skidder) will be done in late September. Aerial site prep work will be done across the state in July and August. Skidder/ground site prep work may be done in early summer in the EUP. Estimated numbers:
 - 216 acres of aerial release work
 - 648 acres of aerial site prep work
 - 50 acres of ground/skidder release work
 - 352 acres of ground/skidder site prep work
- All herbicide work in the EUP will be done under contract.
- Pre-Commercial Thinning (PCT) work
 - Currently the EUP will have 4 sites done with this type of release work, totaling 174 acres.
- 2023 cultivation POW for the EUP is set.
 - 228.9 acres of roller chopping (potential for additional 100 acres following site visits in spring)
 - 1345.6 acres of trenching (of this acreage, 74.5 scheduled for RX burn – if burns not completed, sites will be trenched)

- 1013.1 acres to be scarified (all done by contract w/Holli Forest Products, includes 209 acres in the Gwinn Unit)
- Red Pine fertilization project to promote increased seed/cone production is set to take place this spring in Northern Luce County. Will be incorporated in an active timber sale. Project is roughly 35 acres.
- Field prep work continues on establishing a Red Pine seed orchard on the Thompson Plains. Site will be used to collect RP seed for planting operations.

Fire

Newberry FMU

- Fire staffing begins April 16th. Equipment is being readied for the upcoming fire season.

Sault Ste. Marie FMU

- 2 staff attended a DNR IMT training/meeting in TC.
- SOO 50 attended and successfully completed Complex Incident Management Course (CIMC) in Madison, WI.
- Smokey Bear presentations were done at 2 local Sault pre-schools.
- 1 staff member completed CDL school and now has a Class A CDL.
- 1 staff member assisted with instruction of S-390, Intro. To Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations
- 1 staff member successfully completed S-390, Intro. To Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations
- All staff attended the UP-Fire Tactics Meeting in Gwinn
- 3 staff attended Pipeline Emergency Response Training
- 2 new MIWFF's hired.
- 1 non-career FO hired for the Soo Office and will start April 16th. Employed for 20 weeks or not to exceed 1040 hours.
- RT-130 – Annual Fire Refresher was completed in the Soo Unit on March 20th.
- Soo Unit received its Spring 2023 fire supply order from ICC.
- All radios (800's and HBs) in the Soo Unit have been reprogrammed with updated templates.
- Some fire equipment is in-service, and others are being serviced/reassembled from winter storage.
 - This will be completed soon but the area received 18.5" snow on April 1st.
- Soo Fire Equipment Inspections were done March 10th by the Mechanics from ICC.
- Naubinway Fire Equipment Inspections were done March 24th by the Mechanics from ICC.
- Soo Unit Fire Plan has been reviewed and updated.
- Soo Unit Burn Plans are almost completed. Some are in review and others are in progress. Plan to be completed by the end of April 2023.

Shingleton FMU

- With the recent warm weather snow cover is going away quickly and much of the southern portion of the unit is snow free and we have begun staffing for fire response.
- Several staff are in the lower peninsula to aid with prescribed burn teams.

Road and Bridge

Newberry FMU

- Plans for 5 stream crossing upgrades this summer: 4 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 early summer.

Sault Ste. Marie FMU

- Pre-bid meetings to be held for 20 Mile and Kinross road projects in early May.

Shingleton FMU

- Construction of the new Stanley Lake Bridge will be beginning soon.

Recreation

- Snowmobile trails - Fire Officers worked with local trail grant sponsors to ensure trails were properly signed and safe.

- The snowmobile season has officially ended and trails are no longer being groomed.

Facilities

- Construction of the new Fire Garage at Manistique will break ground soon.
- The Shingleton Fire Garage project is moving along new windows were recently installed.

Good Neighbor Authority

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

Land use

Newberry FMU

- Currently reviewing several easement requests for fiber optic utilities burials on state land in North Luce County. Also, 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.

Shingleton FMU

- Working with Lake to Lake CISMA on Phragmites treatments permitting. Also reviewing a couple road improvement permits.

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.

Research

Newberry FMU

- Reviewed and approved a few research permits that will be ongoing this spring and summer. Topics include:
 - Piping plover & merlin research
 - Raptor banding
 - Collection of soil samples on state land for fungi research

Shingleton FMU

- Reviewing request for cedar restoration

Training

Newberry FMU: Staff attended the following training this past 2 months:

- New Employee Orientation Training
- S131 – Firefighter Type 1 Training
- S390 – Intro to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations Training
- CDL Truck Driving School
- Invasive Species Training
- Pipeline Emergency Response Training
- Fit Leader Training
- RT 130 – Spring Fire Refresher Training
- UP Spring Fire Tactics Training

Shingleton FMU

- The Unit attended the spring tactics meeting in Gwinn as well as the annual spring refresher

Vacancies

- Currently in the process of filling the Forest Fire Supervisor vacancy in Newberry.
- Forester vacancy in Newberry has been filled, that person starts on May 15th.
- A student forestry intern is also starting mid-May and will be here through the summer. (Newberry Unit)

- Two Forest Technician 11 positions for the Naubinway and Seney offices are posted with closing date of April 20th.
- Sean Fischer was hired as the GNA Forester in Shingleton.
- Interviews for the Surveyor 9-12 Licensed were held in April.

Fisheries Division-Eastern UP – Neal Godby, Fisheries Biologist

- Staff from Fisheries Division's Research Section recently published the attached article in Fisheries on our two publicly-available stream tools, the Trend Viewer and Stream Evaluator (links below). The Trend Viewer enables users to see temporal trends in abundance, growth, and survival of fish at fixed sites at local and regional scales. The Stream Evaluator helps users evaluate stream survey results, enabling "apples to apples" comparisons of fish population and habitat metrics between a surveyed location and relevant benchmark streams. Valley segment attributes enable selection of relevant benchmark streams for comparisons. These tools help shift the discussion from anecdotal information to that which is quantitative and uses MDNR standardized survey protocols. If you work on streams, we encourage you check out the article which provides an introduction and overview of the tools (which have been running well for several years now) and several examples of their use. And check out the tools:
Michigan DNR Fish Population Trend Viewer: <http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/fishpop/>
Michigan DNR Stream Evaluator: <http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/smdt/>
- The Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit (NLMMU) in collaboration with the Marquette Research Station and the Thompson State Fish Hatchery will be preparing for annual Walleye egg-take operations in Little Bay de Noc. Eggs collected serve as the stock source for waterbodies across the Upper Peninsula.
- NLMMU is working with the Tribal Coordination Unit to conduct an adult Walleye census estimate on Big Manistique Lake. Additional information will be collected from non-target game species.
- Unit staff will be placing game cameras near a number of trout lakes to estimate fishing pressure on remote waterbodies.
- Temperature loggers are being deployed to support summer stream work and Status and Trends long-term monitoring.
- The NLMMU is working with the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to gather Lake Sturgeon larvae from the Peshtigo River to populate a streamside rearing facility.
- The Au Train Lake Habitat Enhancement project was funded through the 2022 Fisheries Habitat Grant and is a cooperative project between UPRC&D, Alger Conservation District, and the Michigan DNR. U.P. Discovering captured video on the day of the volunteer and public outreach event March 4th. ([DISCOVERING | Fish Habitat & Salamanders & Snow](#)). Students from the area school in Au Train-Onota also captured underwater video of habitat structures ([AuTrain-Onota students test Underwater ROV \(uppermichiganssource.com\)](#))."
- Northern Lake Huron Management Unit (NLHMU) is working with other members of the St. Marys River Fisheries Task Group to analyze and report on data collected during the 2022 St. Marys River Fish Community Index Netting Survey and Creel Survey.
- NLHMU and Southern Lake Huron Management Unit held a virtual coffee and conversations meeting to go over proposed regulation changes and answer questions from the public. Over 50 people attended the meeting and a wide variety of topics were discussed.
- NLHMU will be participating in the Michigan Sea Grant Spring Lake Huron Fishery Workshops including one in Cedarville. These will also be hybrid meetings so virtual attendance is an option. Please see the attached flyer for additional information and registration instructions.

- Fish stocking season is starting in the Upper Peninsula. Management Unit technicians will be delivering fish from the hatcheries this spring to waterbodies with active stocking plans.
- Winter limnological profiles on inland trout lakes. Winter limnological profiles examine the dissolved oxygen available for fish in the water column. Fisheries technicians use a handheld instrument and a wired-probe to measure dissolved oxygen readings each foot moving deeper in the water column. Acceptable dissolved oxygen in the late winter months is critical for trout survival. Although brook trout can tolerate lower amounts of dissolved oxygen for short periods of time, they require 5.0 mg/L or higher to be successful and not endure stress. Michigan DNR stocks many inland lakes with brook trout (and other trout species) so managers need to conduct frequent check-ins on these state resources. Lakes where a profile was conducted in winter 2023 were Big Spring, Colwell Lake, High Banks Lake, Naomikong Pond, Sitka Lake, and West Johns Lake.
- Cory Kovacs presented for the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition in March at the Peter White Library in Marquette. A summary of the creel results for Lake Superior from 1986-2022 were presented. Cory also overviewed trends in the Lake Superior fishery and talked about citizen science opportunities for anglers.
- Fisheries managers continue to work on funded habitat projects across the Eastern Lake Superior Management Unit. The Sucker River H-58 crossing and sea lamprey barrier project is nearing its target for funding. Design plan and engineering is nearing the 60% completion stage. The team is putting together plans for site visits and discussing plans for alternative analyses. An Environmental Assessment is being completed through NEPA over the next year.
- Field staff are prepping gear for spring surveys on inland walleye lakes. Big Manistique Lake, Culhane Lake, and Bodi Lake are having walleye population estimates completed. Michigan DNR, US Forest Service, and Tribal partners are collaborating on these efforts. Bay Mills Indian Community and the USFS will also be conducting a walleye population estimate on Big Trout (Carp) Lake. These surveys will be conducted immediately following ice-out and crews will be in the water for multiple weeks.
- Fisheries Division staff and Law Enforcement staff met to discuss fisheries subjects for the District 2 area. Officers and Fisheries Biologists discussed fishing trends, common questions, and issues that were encountered over the past 12 months. These meetings have been helpful for both Divisions in getting information shared and staff to make direct contacts with each other. These meetings will become an annual meeting to keep the communication lines open between staff.

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

- We've made it through snowmobile season which ran right into the beginning of April. The spring fish runs are in full swing with an excellent smelt run again this year. Officers have continued to be involved in search & rescue missions as you will read in some of the bi-weekly reports. The latest involved a woman from Detroit with 4 children that tried to make it to the Lake Superior Shoreline on Easter weekend to see the northern lights and became stuck in the deep snow in her minivan.
- Law Division has recently opened the application process for the next hire group of Conservation Officers. This group of officers will be MCOLES (Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards) pre-certified officers. The hire group will then go through additional CO training but not be required to attend the training academy, they will hopefully be in the field by this fall.
- Below are the bi-weekly reports since our last meeting.

DISTRICT 2 BIWEEKLY REPORT 2-6-2023

- **COs Steve Butzin and Rob Freeborn** were on patrol in Garden Township following up on a snowmobile trespass complaint. They stopped at a local gas station to fuel their patrol truck and observed several individuals acting suspiciously as their vehicles were pulled side by side and they were moving items from one vehicle to another. These individuals were recognized by the COs from prior encounters involving various criminal activities including illegal drugs. The individuals watched the COs for some time, it appeared they were waiting for the COs to leave the gas station. CO Butzin ran the license plate on one of the vehicles and discovered it to not be insured and the driver to have a felony warrant for dangerous drugs. The COs waited up the road for the vehicle to leave the gas station. As the vehicle pulled out of the parking lot and onto the county road, the COs began to drive their patrol truck towards the vehicle to conduct a traffic stop. Once the individuals in the

vehicle saw the COs coming towards them, they immediately pulled back into the gas station parking lot. The COs pulled into the parking lot and contacted the driver and passenger of the vehicle. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that along with the felony warrant for dangerous drugs the driver was on probation, in possession of 0.3 grams of methamphetamine, and possessed several hypodermic needles. The driver was arrested for the warrant and possession of illegal drugs then lodged in the Delta County Jail.

- **CO Chris Lynch** was starting his patrol day when a call came out for a snowmobile accident that occurred on the trail. CO Lynch obtained his department issued snowmobile and proceeded to the scene. CO Lynch joined multiple first responders in the effort to render aid to the snowmobiler and getting him off the trail to an ambulance.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Rob Freeborn** were on patrol when they checked a pair of ice anglers. The anglers had seven lines out between the two of them. After it was determined who was fishing more than three lines, that angler was issued a citation for the violation.
- **CO Andrea Dani** patrolled a snowmobile trail/county road intersection in Alger County popular for stop sign violations. CO Dani observed a group of riders fail to stop at the county road stop sign. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Christopher Lynch** patrolled Little Bay De Noc on a busy Saturday. The COs contacted hundreds of anglers enjoying the nice weather and low snow conditions on the ice. When contacting one angler during the patrol, it was immediately determined he was fishing with too many lines. The angler stated he thought it wasn't a big deal because it was the free fishing weekend. The COs advised the weekend was for allowing people to fish without a license and didn't waive all fishing regulations for the weekend. A citation was issued for the violation.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was conducting a snowmobile patrol in an area of high complaints. CO Sumbera observed an individual blow through a stop sign at a high rate of speed. After making a stop on the subject, CO Sumbera asked the rider if he had even seen the stop signs. The rider admitted that he knew that they were there but stated that he was trying to catch up with his friends. A citation was issued for careless operation. Three other citations were issued in the same area for careless operation.
- **CO Mike Olesen** received a report of an individual attempting to register a bobcat at the Sault Ste. Marie Customer Service Center that he had caught in a snare he set for coyotes. CO Olesen interviewed the man who showed him his snares that he had set for coyotes. The snares did not have the required relaxing lock on them and did not have a stop on them to prevent the restraint from closing to a diameter less than 4 ¼ inches, a citation was issued.
- **CO Justin Vinson** received a call at 1:30 am from central dispatch indicating that two men approximately 65 years of age had been snowmobiling, were out of gas, and had no idea where they were, or where they had left their vehicle. Central dispatch indicated that the men, soaked through their suits due to the rain had sought shelter in the Holland Lake Campground outhouse. CO Vinson responded to the area, locating the extremely cold men at approximately 2:45 am on his department issued snowmobile. After providing the two men with some gas and working through some minor mechanical issues caused by the rain, CO Vinson escorted the men to the nearest park and ride, where the sleds could be left over night. CO Vinson then transported the very appreciative men back to their vehicle north of Shingleton.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** followed up on a suspicious otter registration. Contact was made and it was determined that the otter had been caught in a previous season by another trapper. Additionally, it was determined that the man failed to register a pine marten before the registration date. A report was generated requesting charges against the two men for loaning and borrowing an otter tag, fail to register otter, and fail to register pine marten. The report was submitted to the Chippewa County Prosecutor's Office.
- After numerous snowmobile fatalities this season, **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** patrolled the Trout Lake area and issued six tickets for snowmobilers running stop signs at a high rate of speed. An additional four citations were issued the following day for careless operation of a snowmobile.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** patrolled the relic ride in Delta County and issued four citations to snowmobilers who ran through stop signs at intersections. One warning was issued for a snowmobiler who operated his snowmobile against the flow of traffic.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** were patrolling South Manistique Lake when they encountered an angler fishing after dark. The COs followed the man's tracks a short distance where three additional tip-ups were located. The man admitted to fishing additional lines. A citation was issued for fishing more than three lines.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** went to Brimley High School to talk with local area students about the job of being a conservation officer.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** went to Newberry High School and gave a presentation about the job of a conservation officer and to educate the class on who Michigan conservation officers are and what they do.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** responded with the Michigan State Police (MSP) to a snowmobile fatality in northern Luce County. CO VanOosten provided transport to the remote location with his department issued snowmobile and assisted the MSP with the crash investigation. The snowmobiler lost control on a curve and exited the trail before hitting a tree. The crash is still under investigation.
- **COs Todd Sumbera, Mike Olesen, Justin Vinson, Sgt. Calvin Smith,** and Luce County Sheriff's Deputy Tim Maskus conducted a group snowmobile patrol near Big Manistique Lake. A complaint had been received of an unregistered event that was going to involve drag racing of snowmobiles on the ice. The event organizer was contacted earlier in the day by CO Vinson who educated the man on the required permit and that drag racing of snowmobiles on a public lake is illegal. The organizer canceled the event and invited the COs to stop by and meet the group which the COs gladly did.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 2-19-2023

- **COs Steve Butzin and Rob Freeborn** were on patrol in Garden Township following up on a snowmobile trespass complaint. They stopped at a local gas station to fuel their patrol truck and observed several individuals acting suspicious as their vehicles were pulled side by side and they were moving items from one vehicle to another. These individuals were recognized by the COs from prior encounters involving various criminal activities including illegal drugs. The individuals watched the COs for some time, it appeared they were waiting for the COs to leave the gas station. CO Butzin ran the license plate on one of the vehicles and discovered it to not be insured and the driver to have a felony warrant for dangerous drugs. The COs waited up the road for the vehicle to leave the gas station. As the vehicle pulled out of the parking lot and onto the county road, the COs began to drive their patrol truck towards the vehicle to conduct a traffic stop. Once the individuals in the

vehicle saw the COs coming towards them the immediately pulled back into the gas station parking lot. The COs pulled into the parking lot and contacted the driver and passenger of the vehicle. Upon further investigation it was discovered that along with the felony warrant for dangerous drugs, the driver was also on probation and was in possession of 0.3 grams of methamphetamine along with several hypodermic needles. The driver was arrested for the warrant and possession of illegal drugs then lodged in the Delta County Jail.

- **CO Chris Lynch** was starting patrol when a call came out for a snowmobile accident that occurred on the trail. CO Lynch obtained his department issued snowmobile and proceeded to the scene. CO Lynch joined multiple first responders in the effort to render aid to the snowmobiler and getting him off the trail to the ambulance.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** were on snowmobile patrol when they came across a group of snowmobilers. Four people were not wearing helmets and one snowmobile was not registered. A citation was issued for the violations.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Rob Freeborn** were on patrol when they checked a pair of ice anglers. The anglers had 7 lines out between the two of them. After it was determined who was fishing more than three lines that angler was issued a citation for the violation.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** were on patrol on Munising Bay when the officers observed an angler with what was believed to be an undersized splake. CO Dani measured the splake, which was 14" long, short of the 15" minimum size limit. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Andrea Dani** patrolled a snowmobile trail/county road intersection in Alger County popular for stop sign violations. CO Dani observed a group of riders fail to stop at the county road stop sign. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Brandon Maki** patrolled for fishing activity on inland lakes and in the Munising Bay area. COs contacted over 100 fishermen over the free fishing weekend and found one individual who was in possession of a 14" splake. The individual was cited and the splake was seized.
- **COs Michael Evink, Robert Freeborn, Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** conducted a patrol of the Annual Relic Ride in Manistique. Due to the great weather attendance was over 300 participants. The COs issued 6 tickets during the event. Most were for careless operation.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Christopher Lynch** patrolled Little Bay De Noc on a busy Saturday. The COs contacted hundreds of fishermen enjoying the nice weather and low snow conditions on the ice. When contacting one fisherman during the patrol, it was immediately determined he was fishing with too many lines. The fisherman stated he thought it wasn't a big deal because it was the free fishing weekend. The COs advised the weekend was for allowing people to fish without a license and didn't wave all fishing regs for the weekend. A citation was issued for the violation. The COs also stopped a fisherman with a snowmobile that did not have a registration. A citation was issued for the violation.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** was on routine snowmobile patrol when he observed several snowmobiles stopped at a stop sign. It was determined that several of them had expired registrations as well as no trail permits. Citations were issued for the expired registrations as well as no trail permit.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was conducting a snowmobile patrol in an area of high complaints. CO Sumbera observed an individual blow through a stop sign at a high rate of speed. After making a stop on the subject, CO Sumbera asked the rider if he had even seen the stop signs. The rider admitted that he knew that they were there but stated that he was trying to catch up with his friends. A citation was issued for careless operation. Three other citations were issued in the same area for careless operation.
- **COs Todd Sumbera and Justin Vinson** conducted a snowmobile patrol in Chippewa County. Activity was higher than expected given the trail conditions and multiple riders were having issues with sleds overheating. The COs issued five citations for careless operation.
- **CO Mike Olesen** received a report of an individual attempting to register a Bobcat at the Sault Ste. Marie Customer Service Center that he had caught in a snare he set for coyotes. CO Olesen interviewed the man who showed him his snares that he had set for coyotes. The snares did not have the required relaxing lock on them and did not have a stop on them to prevent the restraint from closing to a diameter less than 4 ¼ inches, a citation was issued.
- **CO Justin Vinson** received a call at 1:30 am from Central Dispatch indicating that two men approximately 65 years of age were out of gas, had no idea where they were or where they had left their vehicle. Central dispatch indicated that the men sought shelter in the Holland Lake Campground outhouse. CO Vinson responded to the area, locating the men at approximately 2:45 am on his department issued snowmobile. After providing the two men with some gas and working through some minor mechanical issues caused by the rain, CO Vinson escorted the men to the nearest park and ride, where the sleds could be left over night. CO Vinson then transported the very appreciative men back to their vehicle north of Shingleton.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** followed up on a suspicious otter registration. Contact was made and it was determined that the otter had been caught in a previous year by another trapper. Additionally, it was determined that the man failed to register a marten before the registration date. A report was generated requesting charges against two men for loaning and borrowing an otter tag, fail to register otter, and fail to register pine marten. The report was submitted to the Chippewa county prosecutor's office.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** patrolled Brevoort Lake to check ice fishermen. After patrolling the lake, CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict issued four warnings for no fishing license in possession, one warning for fishing more than 3 lines, and one citation for no name on tip up.
- After numerous snowmobile fatalities this season, **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** patrolled Trout Lake area and issued 6 tickets for snowmobilers running stop signs at a high rate of speed. An additional four citations were issued the following day for careless operation of a snowmobile.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** patrolled the relic ride in Delta County and issued four citations to snowmobilers that ran through stop signs at intersections. One warning was issued for a snowmobiler who operated his snowmobile against the flow of traffic.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** were patrolling South Manistique Lake when they encountered a fisherman fishing after dark. The officers followed the man's tracks a short distance where 3 additional tip-ups were located. The man admitted to fishing additional lines. A citation was issued for fishing more than three lines.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** were on patrol of South Manistique Lake when they contacted a man with three tip-ups out. It was determined that the man was fishing an additional line inside of an ice shanty. A citation was issued to the man for fishing more than three lines.

- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** went to Brimley High School to talk with a local area students about the job of being a conservation officer.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** went to Newberry High school and gave a presentation about the job of a conservation officer and to educate the class on who Michigan Conservations Officers are and what they do.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** responded with the Michigan State Police (MSP) to a snowmobile fatality in Northern Luce County. CO VanOosten provided transport to the remote location with his department issued snowmobile and assisted MSP with the crash investigation. The snowmobiler lost control on a curve and exited the trail before hitting a tree. The crash is still under investigation.
- **COs Todd Sumbera, Mike Olesen, Justin Vinson, Sgt. Calvin Smith,** and Luce County Sheriff's Deputy Tim Maskus conducted a group snowmobile patrol near Big Manistique Lake. A complaint had been received an unregistered event that was going to involve drag racing of snowmobiles on the ice. The event organizer was contacted earlier in the day by CO Vinson who educated the man on the required permit and that drag racing of snowmobiles on a public lake is illegal and if found guilty could add 4 points to ones driving record. The organizer smartly canceled the event and invited the COs to stop by and meet the group which the COs gladly did

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 03-05-2023

- **CO Steve Butzin** was patrolling Little Bay de Noc checking ice fishermen when he was requested by local dispatch to respond to a fully engulfed vehicle fire near his location. Within minutes CO Butzin arrived at the location. The vehicle was a newer model SUV which was pulling an enclosed snowmobile trailer. The vehicle was fully engulfed and was creating several mini explosions as parts of the vehicle began to ignite. Thankfully, the two occupants were able pull over and exit the vehicle just as it caught fire and were not harmed. Masonville Township Fire Department and CO Butzin shut the roadway down to prevent harm to passersby. After a short while the fire was extinguished, and the vehicles removed from the roadway. The Delta County Sheriff's Office responded to complete the accident report.
- **CO Andrea Dani** was approached by a snowmobiler requesting a report from an accident that occurred the night before. CO Dani followed the rider back to his cabin and retrieved the information for the accident, which had not yet been reported to police. A report will be submitted to the Alger County Prosecutor's Office.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** were checking anglers on Munising Bay when the officers encountered an angler in possession of a short splake. The angler was issued a citation for possession of an undersized fish.
- While on patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn** was informed by local dispatch of a BOL advising a vehicle all over the road almost hitting vehicles head-on. CO Freeborn was close to the area and proceeded toward the suspected vehicle. CO Freeborn located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the driver was not under the influence of alcohol/drugs but was reportedly reaching into his glove box. The vehicle was found to be operating without insurance and a citation was issued for the violation.
- **CO Michael Evink** assisted MSP with a Domestic disturbance on a semi-remote location along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Officers were able to locate the couple and separate them. MSP troopers took the pregnant female to her mothers' house and were completing a report to be submitted to the prosecutor.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink** conducted a fish and game patrol by snowmobile in Schoolcraft, Alger, and Delta Counties. The two COs checked numerous remote lakes that were accessible from the snowmobile trail system and connecting County and Forest Service roads. CO Evink issued a ticket to a fisherman operating his snow machine en-route to a remote lake without a helmet.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was patrolling a busy snowmobile/motor vehicle intersection in Christmas where he observed a snowmobile run past a stop sign at a high rate of speed. CO Maki caught up to the rider and stopped them a short distance away. Upon speaking with the rider, it was found that the snowmobile had no trail permit, it was not registered, and the operator of the snowmobile had a suspended license. CO Maki cited the individual for operating while suspended, failing to register his snowmobile, and failing to attach a trail permit. CO Maki gave a verbal warning for careless operation and informed the operator he was not allowed to drive, and someone needed to come give him a ride.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was operating his patrol truck down a well-travelled back road when he observed two snowmobiles enter the roadway at a high rate of speed completely disregarding a posted stop sign. CO Maki initiated a traffic stop and asked the rider why he thought he was being pulled over. The rider stated he had no idea why he was stopped. CO Maki asked him if he had seen the stop sign, he failed to stop at. The rider replied he did not see one and CO Maki asked the rider to look behind him where the stop sign was still visible in the distance. CO Maki issued the first rider a citation for careless operation and gave the second rider a verbal warning.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was patrolling for snowmobiles near Christmas and observed a snowmobile with an expired trail permit stop at an intersection. CO Maki initiated a traffic stop a short distance away. The rider stated he knew he needed a trail permit but had not gotten one yet. CO Maki issued a citation for failing to obtain a trail permit before clearing the scene.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was joined by multiple COs, Deputies from the Alger County Sheriff's Department and US Forest Service Officers for a snowmobile patrol across Alger and Schoolcraft Counties. Officers contacted over 400 snowmobilers throughout the day and issued 9 citations ranging from careless operation to trail permit violations. Altogether, officers patrolled more than 250 miles of snowmobile trail throughout the course of the day.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was conducting fisheries patrol on Brevort Lake when he observed an individual set a bucket in his ice shanty and step outside. After verifying the individual had a fishing license, CO Sumbera asked to see the fish. CO Sumbera put the fish on the ice and found that the fisherman was in possession of 31 perch and a walleye. The subject stated that he was going to throw the others back before he left for the day. A citation was issued for possession of an over limit of perch. Just a few minutes after leaving that fisherman, CO Sumbera noticed snowmobile tracks in a straight line across the lake, in an unusual location. CO Sumbera followed up to find 6 unattended tip ups, with no one in sight. A short time later a snowmobile pulled up to CO Sumbera and stated that he and his brother set the tip ups. CO Sumbera followed the individual back to their camp where the brother was located. The two brothers stated they had approximately 16 tip ups spread out across the lake. CO Sumbera followed the brothers to each tip up for removal of the over limit of lines. Nine of the 16 tip ups did not have a name/address affixed to them. The anglers were a total of 10 lines over the legal limit and they were left unattended. The furthest group of tip

ups were over a mile away from camp. Citations were issued for fishing too many lines, unattended lines and no name/address affixed to the tip ups.

- **CO Todd Sumbera** checked an ice fisherman near Drummond Island who was attempting to spear Northern Pike. The fisherman was unable to produce a fishing license. CO Sumbera confirmed with dispatch that the last license purchased by the fisherman was in 2020. The fisherman's father stated to CO Sumbera that his son is more of a hunter than a fisherman. CO Sumbera then asked how his hunting season was and the son replied, "I harvested a nice 8-point buck in 2021" and showed a picture of the deer. CO Sumbera then reminded the man that he didn't purchase a deer license in 2021, the fisherman hung his head and stated, "I shot it on private property and then had my grandfather put his license on it." A report is being submitted to the prosecutor's office for charges of taking a deer without a license.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** were on snowmobile patrol of Luce County when they observed a snowmobile with an expired registration. A traffic stop was conducted, and it was determined that the snowmobile had not been registered since 2010 and the driver had a revoked driver's license. Additionally, the owner of the snowmobile had failed to transfer ownership of the snowmobile after purchasing. The man was issued a citation for operating a snowmobile on a revoked license and operating an unregistered snowmobile.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** were on snowmobile patrol in Luce County when they observed a snowmobile with defective equipment. A traffic stop was conducted, and it was determined that the snowmobile was unregistered and did not have a trail permit. Additionally, the owner of the snowmobile had a suspended driver's license and had failed to transfer ownership of the snowmobile after purchasing. The man was issued a citation for operating a snowmobile on a suspended license and operating an unregistered snowmobile. Warnings were issued for defective equipment, no trail permit, and failure to transfer.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** were on fisheries patrol in Mackinac County when they encountered three anglers. One angler stated she was not fishing despite being the only person near a fishing pole on the ice and already observed by officers. After further investigation, it was determined that she did not have a fishing license and had reeled the pole up when she saw the officers approaching. Additionally, another individual in the group did not have a fishing license. Both individuals were issued citations for failure to display fishing licenses.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** along with Luce County Sheriff's Deputy Tim Maskus conducted a snowmobile patrol in Luce County following several severe snowmobile accidents. 20 citations were issued with the majority being for careless operation.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Brandon Benedict** were on fisheries patrol in Northern Luce County when they encountered three fishing poles on the ice with nobody around. The COs waiting at the location for approximately 20 minutes before a man walked out. The man stated he had been working on his house and left the lines out for an extended period of time. Additionally, the man failed to provide a fishing license and had an unregistered snowmobile. A citation was issued to the man for fishing with lines not in immediate control.
- **CO Justin Vinson** patrolled West Mackinac area for snowmobile activity. CO Vinson observed several riders failing to stop at intersections and navigate icy corners throughout the patrol. Citations for careless operation were issued.
- **CO Mike Olesen** received a complaint of snowmobilers operating in a careless manner in Western Chippewa County. CO Olesen conducted a patrol focusing on snowmobilers driving too fast into corners of the trail causing them to drift into the oncoming lane. Several violations were observed with citations being issued for careless operation of a snowmobile.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 03-19-2023

- **COs Chris Lynch, Steve Butzin, Rob, Freeborn, and Mike Evink** conducted an all-night patrol on Little Bay de Noc during the last weekend of walleye season. During the patrol numerous contacts were made and several violations were encountered including fishing lines not in immediate control, possessing undersized northern pike, no name and address on tip-ups, no identification on ice shanties, fail to exhibit fishing license, and fail to display valid registration on a snowmobile. In total 11 citations and numerous warnings were issued for these violations.
- **CO Chris Lynch** recently wrapped up a several month-long investigation involving multiple out of state deer hunters who trespassed during the firearm deer season. During the opening day of the firearm deer season CO Lynch received a trespass complaint and responded to the scene. After taking witness statements and documenting evidence at the scene, it was determined the hunters had trespassed through multiple properties and shot a deer over someone else's bait pile where they were caught on trail camera. The suspects were observed using two ORV's and a dark colored Ford F150 pickup truck. Through the investigation it was found that the hunters were staying at a nearby rental cabin. Contact was attempted but the hunters had already left the cabin even though they had a couple more nights they paid to stay there. CO Lynch determined who the hunter who shot the deer was along with the other three hunters in the group. CO Lynch working in conjunction with the Illinois Conservation Police located the four hunters across Illinois. Through the investigation in Illinois both ORV's and the pickup truck that were used in the trespass were located with one of the suspects. Further the suspects were matched to the trail camera pictures taken at the scene. A report will be compiled and sent to the Delta County Prosecutor Office for review for multiple charges of trespass and illegally taking a deer.
- **CO Chris Lynch** received a trespass complaint from a landowner who just put up a new snow fence and multiple trail cameras on his property due to an ongoing trespass issue with snowmobilers riding through his property. The following day the snow fence was tore down, the trail camera took photos of the snowmobilers, and the landowner followed the snowmobile tracks in the fresh snow back to the suspects residence. CO Lynch interviewed the suspect who confessed to trespassing through the property and tearing down the fence. A report will be compiled and sent to the Delta County Prosecutors office for review.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** responded to a snowmobile crash on Trail 7 in Alger County. The officers located the involved subject and confirmed there were no injuries. The operator stated he was driving too fast and was unable to negotiate a curve, causing him to crash into several trees. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** were among many COs from throughout the state to attend a Boating Under the Influence training at the RAM Center. Officers were taught identifiers of BUI activity and alternative ways to administer SFSTs to suspects. The officers practiced these methods on each other and volunteer test subjects.

- **Sgt. Mark Zitnik, CO Andrea Dani, CO Brandon Maki, CO Justin Vinson, and CO Cole Vanoosten** attended the wildlife game dinner at the Munising Baptist Church. COs provided a fur kit which many of the adults and kids found interesting and educational. COs engaged with the public and answered questions as they arose.
- Due to the inclement weather over St. Patrick's Day weekend, **CO Brandon Maki** assisted the Alger County Sheriff's Department closing state highway M28 after multiple vehicles had gone off the roadway. CO Maki contacted multiple motorists and assisted them with alternate routes to their destination.
- Superior Central Elementary School named March hunting month as they were reading a hunting themed book. Due to the theme of the book, Superior Central invited **COs Andrea Dani and Brandon Maki** to speak about what a conservation officer does and other hunting related material. COs spoke to K-5th grade and the kids enjoyed asking questions related to their job and hunting.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** participated in a local outdoor safety presentation where local kids listened to 15-minute presentations and rotated to different stations set up in the high school cafeteria. CO Freeborn and the local Sheriff's Department discussed ORV and Snowmobile safety with the kids and showed them the proper safety gear to wear and bring while riding. The officers also discussed the various age groups required for riding and how to sign up for safety classes. The event was in its first year and will hopefully expand next year.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** attended an informal hearing resulting from a careless operation citation issued for failing to stop at a stop sign. The operator was found at fault and was ordered to pay \$190.
- **CO Michael Evink** patrolled Indian Lake looking for fishing activity. CO Evink contacted two fishermen, one who had too many lines. CO Evink asked him about the extra lines. He stated he put his poles in holes while he was setting up his tip-ups. He was issued a citation for fishing with too many lines.
- **CO Michael Evink** assisted the Schoolcraft County Sheriffs Dept. in looking for a pick-up stuck on the snowmobile trail. The Deputy and CO Evink searched for approximately four and a half hours. They located where a vehicle had been stuck in the trail but had gotten out. The officers followed the tracks back to a paved road to assure that the vehicle was not stuck in a different portion of the trail.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was patrolling Munuscong Bay during the "Last Chance" tournament when he observed two anglers fishing with a total of three tip ups and four jigging rods. One of the anglers admitted to fishing with two tip ups and two jigging rods. A citation was issued for fishing with more than three lines.
- After a lengthy investigation, **COs Todd Sumbera and Cole VanOosten** conducted a follow-up interview on a large 10-point buck harvested in Mackinac County during late archery deer season. It was determined that the deer had been taken with an illegal method. The deer and crossbow were seized in the investigation. A report was generated and submitted requesting charges against the man for taking a deer with an illegal method.
- **CO Cole Vanoosten** reports that after nearly a yearlong investigation involving larceny in a building, the main suspect pled guilty. The suspect pled guilty and agreed to pay \$4000 in restitution to the victim. The co-defendant still has his case pending.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** received a tip of trash that was dumped on state land. Upon review of the trash pile, COs located several DNR licenses and receipts that contained personal information and a cell phone number. The suspect was contacted and cited for litter.
- **CO Justin Vinson** patrolled northern Luce County for snowmobile activity. Trails were in good shape with the recent snowfall and snowmobile traffic was busy. While attempting to stop a group for operating an unregistered sled. The riders were observed carelessly operating, cutting the corners and operating on the wrong side of the trail. Once the group was stopped, CO Vinson educated them on the riding right campaign and issued a citation to an individual for operating a snowmobile with an expired registration.
- **CO Mike Olesen** performed two rehabilitator inspections for the Sault Animal Hospital and the Chippewa Animal Clinic. Allowing them to continue to be a vital part of wild animal care in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 04-03-2023

- **CO Robert Freeborn** responded to a call for backup from a local department on a traffic stop. The local officer had a subject on a traffic stop that was possibly operating under the influence of narcotics and driving on a suspended license. The driver was also known for erratic behavior and was getting agitated. The subject was arrested for OUID and driving with a suspended license. CO Freeborn also assisted the local officer at the hospital during the blood draw.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a complaint about a pile of old ceiling tiles on state land. COs Freeborn and Evink located the pile and documented the scene. CO Freeborn noticed 2 holes in the tiles that appeared to be from can lighting. The box that contained some of the smaller pieces had an address that came back to a local residence. CO Freeborn verified the owner through dispatch and the fed ex tracking number that was still on the box. The COs went to the residence and when the owner opened the door, new ceiling tiles were observed in the living room with 2 can lights. When asked what happened to the old tiles, the owner stated a random gentleman that she did not know, stopped, and asked if he could get rid of the tiles on the porch for her. CO Freeborn advised the homeowner that the scenario she had just mentioned does not randomly happen. The homeowner was issued a citation for litter and was told to pick up the tiles.
- **CO Michael Evink** was patrolling the Thompson area when he observed a side-by-side on US-2. CO Evink waited for the vehicle to pull onto a side street and contacted the vehicle driver. The driver admitted to driving on the Lake Michigan shoreline, and shoulder of US-2 and did not have a valid ORV license. The driver was issued a ticket for no ORV license and given written warnings for operating on the Great Lakes shoreline and operating along State Highway.
- **Sgt. Mark Zitnik** along with **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** attended an active shooter training in Marquette General Hospital put on by the Michigan State Police Emergency Services Team. The officers responded to several controlled scenarios of active and non-active shooter situations.
- A report submitted to Alger County by **CO Andrea Dani** for the illegal take of a six-point buck resulted in a warrant being issued and a guilty plea with \$1300 in fines costs and reimbursement along with license revocation through 2028.
- **Sgt. Mark Zitnik and CO Brandon Maki** were on a patrol when they observed a snowmobiler operating without a helmet and against the flow of traffic adjacent to a state highway. COs initiated a traffic stop and contacted the rider. The rider stated he believed he had warrants and

was detained until it could be confirmed. CO Maki issued citations for operating his snowmobile without a helmet and failing to obtain a trail permit and was given a warning for operating against the flow of traffic. The rider was advised of his active warrants and released due to unsuccessful contact with the originating county.

- After a snowstorm, **CO Brandon Maki** assisted vehicles that were stuck on back roads. CO Maki shoveled and packed a trail using his patrol truck to assist the vehicles getting free from the deep snow.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** spoke on a local radio show "Behind the Badge" and talked about ice safety conditions and laws pertaining to fishing.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** were on patrol when they observed a vehicle with an expired registration. Upon running the plate, it was determined the vehicle has been expired for 5 years and there was no insurance on it. Further CO Butzin had recently contacted the driver of the vehicle for the same violations in a different vehicle. The COs noticed the vehicle accelerated after the driver observed the COs. The officers observed the vehicle pull into the owner's address. The COs approached the vehicle and noticed the driver had already gone into the house, but the vehicle lights were still on, and the vehicle was not running. Contact with the operator was made and it was determined the driver went to get some pizza for lunch. The driver was informed he forgot to turn off his lights and the driver went and turned off the lights. While the driver was turning the vehicle lights off, it was noticed his pizza was still in the vehicle. The driver commented he forgot his pizza too. The driver **was issued a citation for the violations.**
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was dispatched to a residence where the owner reported he was being held captive by a bobcat that was pawing at his door and wouldn't leave. The bobcat could not be scared off and was eventually put down. The animal either had been habituated and released or had some other issue, it is being sent to the wildlife lab for follow up.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 4-17-2023

- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** received a call from Luce County Central dispatch close to midnight on Easter Eve of a stranded motorist with 4 kids in the northern most part of Luce County Luce County. The COs responded to the area and went in on snowmobile and an ORV. They located the woman in a minivan who had made it over 6 miles off the last plowed road before getting stranded and running out of gas earlier in the day. At that time a good Samaritan located the group and assisted in getting them gas and freed from where they were stuck in the deep snow. Even after getting stuck in the snow the Detroit area woman decided to continue on to try to make it to the Lake Superior shoreline to see the northern lights, she only made it a very short distance before again becoming stuck. When officers located the group, they built a fire to help warm them up while waiting for an off road towing company to arrive. Close to 4am the group was extracted from the snow by the towing company and returned to the nearest passable road.
- **CO Todd Sumbera and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were patrolling for smelt dipping activity when they observed a group of six anglers. The COs observed the group for a while, at one point an individual stated to another ember "you sure are blessed, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity." A short time later the COs contacted the anglers as they were loading up to leave. The anglers were approximately 4 gallons over the legal limit for smelt. A citation was issued for the over limit of smelt.
- **COs Justin Vinson, Todd Sumbera and Sgt. Calvin Smith** patrolled the Carp River working complaints of individuals taking over the allowed two gallons of smelt. Several fishermen were contacted with most following the regulations. However, one fisherman was found to be nearly 4 gallons over. A citation was issued for exceeding the daily limit for smelt.
- **CO Mike Olesen** received a complaint of an individual whose house had caught on fire in December of 2022. The subject was now burning the rest of the house which included vinyl siding and other hazardous materials. A report will be submitted to the prosecutor for review.
- **COs Mike Evink, Chris Lynch, Brandon Maki, and Andrea Dani** stood guard at retired LT Bruce Andrews funeral in Escanaba. LT Andrews served in the United States Army from 1953-1955 and completed a 33-year career with the DNR in Houghton/Hancock, Newberry, Munising, Sault Ste. Marie, and finished his career as District Supervisor in Pontiac Lake. LT Andrews was an involved and influential member of all the communities he served and resided in and will be deeply missed.
- **Sgt. Mark Zitnik** along with **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** attended the Shingleton Sportsman's Coalition meeting at the Cusino Research Center. Wildlife division presented on the 2022 hunting and trapping seasons, as well as the current winter and upcoming spring surveys and habitat projects. Also discussed were wildlife surveys and abundance, habitat accomplishments, and various other issues.

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

Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island

- Lime Island AST cleaning & Hazardous Material Assessment: Received preliminary cost estimates from 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: Spring start-up meeting held 4-4-23. Depending on ice conditions, contractor will remobilize on 4-17-23 to finish armor stone, install light and perform site restoration.
- Brimley utility improvement (waterline/storm water replacement): On 3-1-23 a 50% design meeting was held. The team went over the drawings and made comment. This project (depending on funding)
- Brimley Restroom/Shower BLDG project: There remains a couple of punch list items that need to be addressed in the Spring.
- All Units have started hiring STW's for the Season.
- DeTour Ranger vacancy was reposted & Civil Service has sent candidates. Brimley Seasonal Ranger position has been offered and just waiting for drug test/background check results to officially appoint & set starting date.

- Brimley has an additional Ranger vacancy due to a resignation. Supervisor has submitted hiring packet to HR and waiting for this position to post.
- Detour Seasonal Ranger is back from lay-off status.
- Brimley: Brimley Campground reservable dates are May 15th- October 15th this upcoming modern camping season. Depending on snowmelt/weather we will be open for walk-in campers prior to May 15th.
- DeTour State Harbor: Operating dates are May 15th- September 30th, with all amenities available during this time (fuel, water, electricity, pump outs etc.)
- Lime Island Recreation Area operating dates are June 15th- September 4th.
- Both DeTour & Munuscong SFCG's will be open to camping when both are accessible after snowpack melts and roads are passable.
- Algonquin ski trail has suspended grooming operations for the season. Attendance was average for the ski season.
- Brimley & DeTour Rangers are looking forward to warmer weather to complete outdoor projects. Minor equipment maintenance and upcoming project planning has kept them busy.
- Unit staff have been purchasing materials for Spring/Summer projects.
- Park Supervisor, PRD Stewardship, LSSU & DNR Wildlife continue to work and collaborate on Lime Island Tern Colony nesting enhancement plans for this year.
- 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 (string trimmers, blowers, push mower, chainsaws etc.)

Fayette Historic State Park

- Townsite: General reactionary maintenance to window sashes, doors, locks, siding, etc. Continue restoration on Building #7
- Park: Groom XC ski/snowshoe trails, not very many times very little snow this winter. Plow snow/ice multiple times. Lost all snow & restarted winter 4 times this year!
- Ranger Robert Ray to Law Academy
- Winter camping this season was slow – believe it was mostly due to lousy weather

Indian Lake State Park & Palms Book State Park

- Palms Book septic fields project will resume at the end of April. Pumps will be installed a squirt test to follow. Once approved the field to the North will be finished first and operational by the middle of May.
- The new canopy for the raft at Palms Book is being put together and to be installed in early May.
- Indian Lake Toilet building replacement will be moving forward soon to hire a consultant.
- Lake Gogebic construction crew will be replacing some decking boards on the walkway leading to the Springs this week.
- Lake Gogebic construction crew will also be working on the dock fixing some railing.
- Seul Choix Lighthouse Assistant Keepers residences received Cultural Resources Recreation Passport Funds to replace shingles.
- Seul Choix also received some funding for fixing the well pit walls as well.
- Began interviewing for summer workers last week. Several positions need to be filled.
- We have one Ranger still finishing the Park and Recreation Law Academy.
- Looks like we will fill most positions this summer but still looking for an explorer guide.
- Getting ready for another busy summer.

Tahquamenon Falls State Park

- Lower Falls Concession Store Remodel/Replacement project: Interior work on the concession store and bathroom building continued throughout the winter months. Prepping for future paving and concrete work is starting up as the snowpack melts away from the job site. Project completion is scheduled for June.
- Lower Falls Boat Concession/Island Redevelopment project: Olsen & Olsen has completed all major work projects. Fencing projects to address soil erosion areas on the Lower Falls Island will take place this spring when river water levels recede.

- Whitefish Point State Harbor Phase 1 Improvements: The SOM continues to work with Edgewater Resources through the design process. The project team is focusing on baseline improvements that allow the site to meet ADA guidelines and allow for the new docks to be adjustable as lake levels change. We are hopeful that construction funding will be available in FY24.
- ARPA Projects: Meetings between OHM Advisors and Parks and Rec. staff took place this winter to discuss preliminary designs and potential construction dates for each ARPA project. Preliminary design is in progress for each project with Field design work slated to begin after the snow melts.
- Interviews for a vacant ranger position at the park were conducted last week. The selected candidate is scheduled to start sometime in May.
- Lantern Lit Snowshoe Trail Nights in February had good turnouts from visitors.
- A recent warming spell has really knocked down snow levels throughout the park allowing Park Rangers to access campgrounds and day areas to begin spring cleanup and opening procedures.

Straits State Park & Mackinac Island State Harbor

- Straits upper toilet shower buildings remain under construction through winter and into spring.
- Mackinac Island toilet shower building under construction through winter into spring.
- Father Marquette preliminary designs nears phase 500.
- Straits has hired a new permanent intermittent ranger Connor Smith.
- Straits has nearly a full staff this season and needs to find one more person to work night shift.
- No events planned at this time for winter.
- Warm weather is bringing out many walkers into the campground and many calling for camp sites etc.
- With all the ARPA funding 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 and Straits State Park upper campground will remain closed through June or until our projects can be substantially completed.

Newberry Field Office

- Milakokia Lake BAS Improvements: Design has been completed, funding has been secured, and getting prepped for bidding on the project.
- Remodeling office space.
- New vault toilet buildings are being built.
- Currently in the process of interviewing and hiring STW4 summer staff.