



Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: August 2021

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

DNR Public Meetings

For virtual or conference call meeting information, please go to the DNR website at:

www.michigan.gov/DNRMeetings and click on the appropriate meeting and/or agenda for instructions.

- August 10 Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting (call 906-226-1330 for virtual info)
- August 12 Natural Resources Commission Meeting (call 517-599-1067 for info)
- August 16 Forest Management Comment Period-Soo Unit (call 906-875-1039 for info)
- August 17 Forest Management Comment Period-Crystal Falls Unit (call 906-875-6622 for info)
- August 22 Forest Management Comment Period-Gwinn Unit (call 906-346-9201 for info)
- August 25 UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting-Marquette (TBD)
- August 31 Forest Management Comment Period-Shingleton Unit (call 906-420-1645 for info)
- August 31 Forest Compartment Review-Escanaba Unit (call 906-789-8231 for info)
- August 31 UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting-Crystal Falls (TBD)
- September 14 Forest Management Comment Period-Newberry Unit (call 906-291-0120 for info)
- September 16 Natural Resources Commission Meeting (call 517-599-1067 for info)
- September 22 Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting (call 906-226-1330 for info)
- September 23 UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting-Shingleton (TBD)
- September 28 UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting-Sault Ste Marie (TBD)
- September 28 UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting-Baraga/Bergland, 3:00pm (TBD)
- September -- UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting-Escanaba (engagement via direct mail)

U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities

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

- August 10 Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Legacies of Tragedy: Stores of the Barnes-Hecker Families
- August 13 Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Iron Ore Heritage Bike Tour
- Aug 16-22 DNR Pocket Park Open during UP State Fair (PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING!! - Contact Kristi)**
- Aug 17-18 Tahquamenon Falls State Park - NWTF Intro to Turkey Hunting Clinic
- Aug 21-22 Free ORV Weekend
- September 9 Michigan History Museum - Michigan Freedom Trail Commission Virtual Program: The 1847 Michigan Slave Rescues
- Sept 10-11 Bewabic State Park - Harvest Festival (campers only)
- September 16 Michigan History Museum - Michigan Freedom Trail Commission Virtual Program: The Crosswhite and Robert Cromwell Cases
- September 18 Van Riper State Park - Harvest Festival (campers only)
- Sept 19-25 Michigan Trails Week
- September 23 Michigan History Museum - Michigan Freedom Trail Commission Virtual Program: The Kentucky Raid and John Felix White

- September 25 Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Harvest Festival (campers only)
- September 25 Van Riper State Park – Harvest Festival (campers only)
- September 25 Michigan History Museum – Michigan Anishinaabe Heritage Day
- September 26 Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Night Sky Photography Workshop
- September 30 Michigan History Museum – Michigan Freedom Trail Commission Virtual Program: The Impact of the 1847 MI Slave Rescues and the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act

August UP Field Deputy Update – Stacy Haughey

***DNR Pocket Park – UP State Fair in Escanaba
August 16 through August 22, 2021***



you to volunteer this year!

We are excited with the recent news that the DNR Pocket Park is finally able to be open! This includes being open during the UP State fair, and oh my goodness, we have such a short time to plan!

During the week of August 16-22, the DNR Pocket Park will be open to parents and children, both wanting to learn how to catch a fish or hit the bullseye with a bow or pellet gun. And we have something SUPER SPECIAL this year for the fair.....a Smokey hot air balloon (more on that soon!).

2019 was THE most successful year yet, and all because of the overwhelming help from volunteers. Together, volunteers certainly make the park one of the top destinations to visit during the UP State Fair each year. *We know this year may take on a little different meaning for some, and we very much understand.* If, by chance, you are ready to get back into the swing of things, **we surely hope we can count on**

Please help us NOW by considering a few things below.

1. Look at your calendars and please consider volunteering during the week of August 16-22. Your family member(s), friends and coworkers (16 years and older) are also more than welcome to volunteer. Make it a fun group effort! Remember, there are awesome concerts and other events scheduled at the fair...coordinate your shift with those to get in for free! (<https://www.upstatefair.net/entertainment/grandstand-events/>)
2. If you are available, send us an email or call to let us know you can volunteer. If for some reason you are not able to help us this year, please let us know as well.
3. There are so many slots to fill (see below)! (We have reduced some offerings this year knowing that we may not get the number of volunteers needed in our short time frame.) If you have a favorite activity and/or slot you'd like, tell us and we will slot you in. No prior experience is necessary—we will train you!
4. Call or email Kristi Dahlstrom (dahlstromk@michigan.gov / 906-226-1331-Marquette) or Jo Ann Alexander (alexanderj7@michigan.gov / 906-786-2351-Escanaba) for volunteer slots, suggestions or any other ideas you might have.

THANK YOU! We look forward to seeing you in August!

Pocket Park Fair Week Open/Volunteer Shift Hours

(*add 15 minutes to times before and after each shift for training/cleanup)

- Monday, August 16 - 5:00pm-8:00pm
- Tuesday, August 17 - 11:30am-3:30pm & 3:30-7:00pm
- Wednesday, August 18 - 11:30am-3:30pm & 3:30-7:00pm

- Thursday, August 19 - 11:30am-3:30pm & 3:30-7:00pm
- Friday, August 20 - 11:30am-3:30pm & 3:30-7:00pm
- Saturday, August 21 - 11:30am-3:30pm & 3:30-7:00pm
- Sunday, August 22 - 12:00pm-3:00pm

Activities/Stations

- Archery Range (3-4 per shift per day)
- Pellet Gun Range (3-4 per shift per day)
- Fishing Pond (5-7 per shift per day)
- Fire Tower (1-2 per shift per day)
- Greeters (2 per shift per day)
- Hospitality Host (Cook and serve volunteer food items/volunteer assistant – 1 per shift per day)
- Rounder (Make rounds around park, delivering water and tending to volunteer needs, etc. – 1 per shift per day)

Other Good Information to Know

Recent DNR Press Releases

For full details, go to: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnrpressroom>

- State park volunteer opportunities, state forest input, more (7/30/21)
- Wildlife Conservation Month: Bats (7/27/21)
- Wild Times newsletter (7/23/21)
- Nearly 100 parcels of state-managed land at auction in August, September (7/22/21)
- Showcasing the DNR: Enhanced lodging options at Michigan state parks (7/22/21)
- NotMISpecies webinars offer help for backyard invasive species problems and more (7/22/21)
- 2020 deer patches now available at DNR customer service centers (7/21/21)
- Connect with the DNR at August meetings (7/21/21)
- Public Notice Metallic Mineral Lease Applications (7/20/21)
- New Smokey Bear sign puts fire danger messages in lights (7/16/21)
- DNR offices reopen to public Tuesday; other facilities, sites later this summer (7/15/21)
- Showcasing the DNR: Bringing history to life (7/15/21)
- Will you need to apply for an antlerless deer license this year? (7/14/21)
- DNR shares county-level forest products economic data (7/13/21)
- Backyard hawks, summer fishing, firefighter honors and more (7/12/21)

Grant Contacts

For grant information, to go: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-58225---,00.html>

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant
 Recreation Passport Grant
 Aquatic Habitat Grant
 Michigan Invasive Species Grant
 Wildlife Habitat Grant
 U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant

Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov
 Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov
 Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, parkerk4@michigan.gov
 Kammy Frayre, 517-284-5970, frayrek1@michigan.gov
 Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, parkerk4@michigan.gov
 Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, scullonh@michigan.gov

Western UPCAC Update

The WUPCAC Meeting was held on July 22nd virtually via Zoom with approximately 32 attendees, including Council members, DNR staff, NRC Commissioner Richardson, legislative representatives, and registered public attendees. The following agenda items were discussed:

- Division updates by DNR Staff
- DNR Response to May Resolutions: 1) Menominee Separate Possession Limit, 2) Northern Pike Immediate Catch and Release, 3) Metrics of Fish Management Plans
- Moose Management Considerations
- Summer Youth Program for PRD
- Antlerless Application Process
- Potential Revision of WUPCAC Bylaws
- Reports from Committee Meetings: The Fisheries Committee will be presented a resolution that was tabled at the May meeting for further review-Northern Pike Five Fish NMS Limit. The resolution passed by majority vote.
- Public Comments: Two people registered for public comment. One pertained to PFAS concerns in the Porkies (was found not to be PFAS) and one spoke about wolves.
- The next WUPCAC meeting will be held on September 22, 2021 in person.

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

July NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met today (July 15) in Okemos, its first in-person meeting since the advent of COVID-19.

Resource Deputy Shannon Lott, acting for Director Dan Eichinger, approved:

- A proposed oil and gas lease auction, which will offer for lease 24,000 acres of state-managed public lands in 17 counties.
- Four land transactions, details of which can be found in the NRC agenda.

Committee of the Whole, Director's Report

Copies of the PowerPoint presentation on the following items can be found linked within the NRC agenda for today's meeting.

Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter gave some general fisheries updates to the commission. Spring 2021 fish stocking went well, with most rearing assignments met or exceeded. Fisheries Division made 258 stocking trips from six hatcheries and stocked 573 sites.

Spring walleye saw good production in west Upper Peninsula ponds and lower production than normal in the southern Lower Peninsula. The division directly stocked almost 9.5 million walleye fry, with 3.2 million spring fingerlings harvested from ponds.

Randy Claramunt from the Fisheries Division gave an update on a new permit system for control of double-crested cormorants -- a protected species under the migratory bird act -- following a rapid increase in the population over the past few decades. One cormorant can eat as much as a pound-and-a-half of fish a day, which is why control of the birds is such an important issue.

Among other things, the new system requires that the state provide a history of cormorant conflicts; a description of the area affected; a description of timeline, seasons of conflict and a time of year when control activities would occur; and for each location where control will occur a description of non-lethal methods used previously and a plan for implementing

non-lethal management. The system also requires that the state have a long-term plan to eliminate or significantly reduce the continued killing of double-crested cormorants. The state's permit for control was issued by the federal government in April. The state was approved to take more than 11,000 birds or nests (up to 1,400 nests) under the permit.

Nicole Hunt of the Parks and Recreation Division provided information on a proposed director's order that would allow the Parks and Recreation Division to prohibit access to beaches managed by PRD under certain conditions. Some of those conditions include:

- Times of dangerous water conditions
- While a water rescue is occurring
- When bacteria or contaminants are present
- When other issues are identified that would impact safety, such as vessel wreckage washing ashore

Prohibiting access would not be predicated upon flying a red flag alone. The prohibition would be invoked after reviewing criteria to determine whether access should be restricted and the area of the beach to be restricted. The prohibitions would apply only for beaches managed by PRD. The order is intended as a tool to assist with the welfare and safety of visitors. The emphasis would be on trying to gain compliance among visitors, not on issuing citations or fines.

Brian Frawley of the Wildlife Division presented preliminary 2020 deer harvest survey results. Last year saw a 2 percent increase in the number of people who purchased a license over against 2019. The number of hunters who actually went afield increased by 5 percent. In all seasons combined, 410,639 deer were harvested in 2020, an increase in harvest of 13 percent over 2019. Buck harvest was not significantly different year-to-year, but antlerless harvest increased by 26 percent. Harvest increased most significantly (up 19 percent) in the southern Lower Peninsula. The survey found that 19 percent of hunters spent more time afield in 2020 because of COVID-19.

Scott Whitcomb of the Executive Division presented a report on a review of state-managed public land undertaken by the department. The department manages 4.6 million acres of public lands and 6.4 million acres of mineral rights on behalf of Michigan residents. Of that land:

- 3.9 million acres are state forests
- 357,000 acres are state parks and recreation areas
- 364,000 acres are state game and wildlife areas

The land review – which will include a total of 240,000 DNR-managed acres -- sought to identify parcels that might be isolated from other public lands and might be of little conservation and recreational value. Income from sale of such parcels can allow the department to acquire other land that is surrounded by state-managed public land and might have greater value. Evaluation of DNR-managed lands [is occurring 10 counties at a time](#) and involves multi-disciplinary and multi-level review, including public review and comment.

A report on legislation affecting the department is 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 517-599-1067 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).

HB 4050 – Exempt Certain Game Location Data from FOIA – Rep. Cherry: This bill amends the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to allow for a disclosure exemption of public records revealing the specific location or GPS coordinates of game animals.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. The bill has been signed into law by the Governor and is Public Act 33 of 2021.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HB 4080 – Allow Pneumatic Guns During Certain Seasons – Rep. LaFave: This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide the NRC the ability to allow an individual to use a pneumatic gun during any firearm season. The bill would also give the Department the ability to determine whether a pneumatic gun could be allowed during archery season for individual with a disability or physical limitation.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

HBs 4205 and 4206 – Provide Free Snowmobile Weekend on Snowmobile Trails – Reps. Roth and S. Johnson: House Bill 4205 would require that before the start of each snowmobile season, the Department would be required to designate one weekend in the snowmobile season during which a registration would not be required to operate a snowmobile on snowmobile trails. House Bill 4206 would require that before the start of each snow mobile season, the Department would be required to designate one weekend in the snowmobile season during which a trail permit would not be required to operate a snowmobile on snowmobile trails.

- The bills were passed by the House of Representatives and referred to the Senate awaiting referral to committee.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HB 4332 (H-1)– Modify Placement of Off-Road Vehicle Stickers – Rep. S. Johnson: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the license for a 2-wheel vehicle to be attached to either of the following: centered on the exposed surface of the rear fender or located at a visible place on a front suspension fork.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

HB 4363 (H-1) – Modify Time Periods for Certain DNR Land Transactions – Rep. Howell: The bill would extend the time-period for the DNR to approve or deny an application for a proposed exchange of state land and for a proposed sale of surplus land, from 180 days to 210 days. The bill would also require the DNR to provide public notice at least 30 days before making a decision to dispose of, lease, or develop certain public land of more than 80 acres in size.

- The bill was passed by the House and referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, where one hearing has been held.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HB 4535 and HB 4536 – Prohibit Wheeled Vehicles on Snowmobile Trails – Rep. Borton: House Bill 4535 would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit wheeled vehicles from driving on snowmobile trails between December 1 to April 1. House Bill 4536 would allow for civil fines collected under HB 4535 to be deposited in recreational snowmobile trail improvement subaccount instead of being revenue for public libraries.

- These bills were reported with recommendation from the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and awaiting a vote on the house floor.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

HB 4969 – Require Conservation Officers to Wear Body Cameras While on Patrol– Rep. LaFave: House Bill 4969 would require conservation officers to wear body cameras while on patrol.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Military, Veterans and Homeland Security.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4980 (H-1) – Exempt Drag Racing Prohibition from Statue for Silver Lake State Park – Rep. VanSingel: The bill would amend the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code to establish an exception for activities relating to speed or acceleration contests or drag racing at Silver Lake State Park.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

SB 251 (S-2) – Modify Commercial Fishing Regulations – Sen. McBroom: The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act for the purpose of restricting the DNR’s authority to issue Fisheries Orders for the management of the state-licensed commercial fishery. In addition, the bill would make a number of changes including putting current fisheries orders into statute.

- The bill was passed by the Senate and was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration is neutral on the S-2 version of this legislation.

SB 486 – Modify Membership on the Wolf Management Advisory Council– Sen. McBroom: The bill modifies the membership of the Wolf Management Advisory Council to require all members be residents of the Upper Peninsula unless wolves are found to be present in the Lower Peninsula, if so a majority of the members must be from the Upper Peninsula.

- The bill was passed by the Senate and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

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

Division Updates

Finance & Operations: Michelle Zellar, Eastern UP

Customer Service Centers are now open to the public from 8am to 5pm, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays until after Labor Day, which is when they will return to regular business hours 8am to 5pm, Monday thru Friday. The Office of State Employer continues to require health screening protocol daily during computer log in if you intend to work in a state office building. Vaccinated staff will not be required to wear a mask but are welcome to. All unvaccinated staff will be required to mask and social distance.

Can I still get a 2020 deer patch?

When DNR Customer Service Centers re-open in 2021, you can stop in for a 2020 deer patch at that time, while supplies last. If you stop in then, you will be asked to show a photo of your 2020 deer harvest or your kill tag to obtain a patch.

New for 2021: a universal antlerless deer license entitles residents and nonresidents, to take an antlerless deer on public or private land in any deer management unit open to antlerless deer hunting. No application is needed to purchase a universal antlerless deer license. Hunters of any age may purchase universal antlerless deer licenses, including youth hunters licensed under the Mentored Youth Hunting program. See [page 47 of the 2021 Hunting Digest](#) for further details. For more information on antlerless deer hunting in the Upper Peninsula, including quota information, see the 2021 Hunting Digest, pages 60-61.

AUGUST 2021

8/1 – Crow season re-opens (open dates are 8/1 – 9/30 and 2/1 – 3/31)

8/1 – Deadline for Fall Turkey applications

8/1 – May apply for Reserved Waterfowl hunts

8/1 – Hook & Lure size/weight restrictions begin on all streams (through 5/31, see p. 11)

8/10 – May place bear blinds in Zone 1 and may place bear baits in Zone 1

8/15 – Deadline for Antlerless Deer applications (also Reserved Deer Hunts)

8/16– Fall Turkey Drawing results posted on Web site

8/17 – May place bear blinds in Zone 2 (see Bear Digest for baiting dates)

8/23 - Leftover Turkey Licenses on sale (for unsuccessful applicants; OTC for all on 8/30)

8/28 – Deadline to apply for Reserved Waterfowl

8/30 – Drawing Results for Antlerless Deer posted online

8/31 - Elk Hunt #1 opens (see Elk Digest for all hunt period dates)

SEPTEMBER 2021

- 9/1 – Goose, Teal, Snipe, Rail seasons open (see Waterfowl digest for periods/limits)
- 9/1 – May place tree stands, ladders, steps, and Type 3 deer blinds on State land
- 9/4 – Sturgeon opens on the Boundary Waters (closes 9/30)
- 9/7 – Leftover and OTC Antlerless licenses on sale at 10:00 am
- 9/8 – Bear hunting begins in the U.P.
- 9/11-12 – Liberty Hunt for deer, see pgs. 29 and 33
- 9/12 – Bear hunting opens in Lower Peninsula units (No dogs on the opening day; bait only)
- 9/15 – Small Game Opener (Rabbit, Hare, Ruffed Grouse, Fox/Gray/Black Squirrel)
- 9/15 – Fall Turkey season opens (through 11/14)
- 9/15 – Woodcock opener (through 10/29)
- 9/15 – Turtle seasons close (Snappers and Softshells)
- 9/15 – Can place bait for Deer in U.P. (except in no-bait areas; see pg. 44-51)
- 9/18-19 – Early Antlerless Firearm Deer season (see digest p. 40 for areas)
- 9/18-19 – Youth Waterfowl Hunt – includes Veterans and Active Duty personnel
- 9/20 – LP Bear firearm seasons end (Note: closes two days prior for bait hunters)
- 9/25 - Duck Hunting opens in the North Zone
- 9/30 – Crow season closes; Sturgeon closes on Lk. St. Clair, St. Clair R. and Boundary Waters.
- 9/30 – Trout Season closes on most inland streams
- 9/30 – Snowmobile Licenses expire

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

This summer has been a very busy one for our officers, the lifting of COVID restrictions coupled with a large number of people still working remote and great weather have put a lot of people in our area recreating. District officers have again been involved in several search and rescue operations with one major life saving event of a subject who was thrown from a PWC which he was operating for the first time. Below are some of the cases officers have been involved in since our last CAC.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 6-14-2021

- **CO Andrea Dani** received a complaint of a fire burning old building materials on a day no burn permits were issued. CO Dani responded to the scene, which was burning unattended upon her arrival. The fire was put out by the Munising TWP Fire Department. CO Dani observed couch remnants in the ash. Contact was made with the property owner, who admitted to the allowing of burning on the property. A third party was established as continuing to feed illegal materials into the fire. A report is being submitted to the Alger County Prosecutor's Office.
- **CO Andrea Dani** received a call of a dead deer on the beach near Stonington Point. CO Dani located the antlerless deer with what appeared to be an arrow wound behind the front shoulder. No arrow was recovered. The illegal take of a deer out of season is still under investigation.
- **CO Michael Evink** was traveling on a state highway when he observed an ORV traveling across and then down the shoulder of the highway the operator was not wearing a helmet. CO Evink conducted a traffic stop on the ORV. The operator had multiple violations. CO Evink issued a ticket for operating without a helmet. Additional warnings were issued for the other violations.
- **COs Michael Evink and Steven Butzin** were conducting a patrol of local streams for fishing activity. The COs observed a man fishing on the banks of a river. Contact of the fisherman revealed he did not possess a fishing license. The individual was issued a ticket for fishing without a license.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a RAP complaint of a deer blind that was too close to a residence. After arriving on scene, CO Freeborn was able to determine the blind was within the safety distance allowed by law. He advised the complainant that the owner of the blind would be unable to use a firearm out of the blind but would still be allowed to archery hunt. The complainant was upset with the results but understood that the CO had to follow what the law stated.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Mike Evink** were checking salmon boats when they saw a group of boats in the distance. As they approached the first one, it became obvious that they boat was fishing too many lines. Once the COs pulled alongside the boat, it was determined that the two fisherman had 10 lines out and were 4 over the legal amount. A citation was issued for fishing with the extra lines. As the COs left that contact, they proceeded to the next boat which also appeared to have too many lines out. As the COs approached the boat, it confirmed their suspicions. The three fishermen on the boat had 10 lines out and were 1 over the legal amount. As the COs were issuing a citation, the captain of the boat grabbed his marine radio to warn the other boats they were on the water. The COs advised the captain that they also have a marine radio and heard everything he just said. The captain became agitated and eventually apologized. As the COs left, they observed another boat that appeared to have too

many lines. As the COs approached, their suspicions were confirmed. The boat had 7 lines out with two fishermen and had an expired registration even after being warned on the marine radio minutes ago that the DNR was on the water. A citation was issued for the extra line and a warning for the expired registration.

- **CO Steve Butzin** was doing follow up from this past deer season when he encountered an individual who had taken a 6-point buck during the firearm deer season without having a valid deer license. A report has been submitted to the Delta County Prosecutors Office requesting charges.
- **COs Steve Butzin and Jason McCullough** who works Calhoun County, were doing follow up from this past deer season when the COs discovered that an individual had taken an over limit of bucks during the firearm deer season. Towards the beginning of rifle season one individual was found to have taken an 8-point buck under his license, then borrowed the license of another to shoot and tag an additional 7-point buck. A report has been submitted with the Delta County Prosecutors Office requesting charges.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol in Fairbank Township when he saw a large plume of black smoke. CO Butzin followed the smoke to a residence in Fairport where he discovered one individual to be burning hazardous materials. Among these materials were several mattresses, a large plastic water tank, metal, carpet, and other various building materials. The fire was able to be extinguished by the homeowner. A report has been submitted to the Delta County Prosecutors Officer requesting charges of burning without a permit, failing to attend a fire, and unlawful disposal of solid waste.
- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint of a juvenile eagle that appeared to be injured. The eagle was in the northern portion of the Hiawatha National Forest on an island of a remote lake. CO Butzin met the caller at the lake and the two of them motored out to check on the eagle. Upon locating the eagle, it was obvious that it was in rough shape. It appeared that it had fallen out of a nest and had been on the ground for several days. The eagle was covered in bugs and appeared to be severely dehydrated due to the recent warm temperatures over the weekend. CO Butzin was able to help stabilize the eagle providing it with a cooler environment and food. The following day the eagle was transported to a rehabilitation facility in Marquette.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was patrolling Little Bay de Noc when he encountered several violations. These violations included individuals operating motorboats without personal flotation devices, unregistered motorboats, and possessing an undersized northern pike. Several citations were issued.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** conducted a stop on a vessel with an expired registration on Memorial Day. The operator stated that the boat was his mothers and stays at their cabin on the lake. The individual also stated that he had used it over the weekend for fishing. After running LEIN, the boat came back registered to the operator. A citation was issued for operate unregistered watercraft.
- While patrolling Drummond Island, **CO Todd Sumbera** conducted a stop on three ORV's operating on State Highway M-134. A citation was issued for operate on state highway.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Todd Sumbera** were on marine patrol on the waterways of the Les Cheneaux Islands. Several boats were out enjoying the unseasonably hot weather. Officer Vinson and Sumbera observed a boat operating with an expired registration. Upon further investigation, it was found that the operator of the boat was violating a PPO sought by his passenger. The parties were separated, the PPO was served, and a citation was written for operating a watercraft with expired registration.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Sgt. Calvin Smith** patrolled South Manistique Lake for marine and fishing activity. Anglers were catching good bags of walleye, panfish, and Largemouth bass. Violations observed were, possession of undersize Largemouth, and failure to provide PFD. A citation was issued.
- **CO Justin Vinson** was patrolling northern Luce County when Central Dispatch asked for assistance with a car accident east of the Lower Tahquamenon Falls. Officer Vinson responded assisting Whitefish EMS, and the Michigan State Police at the scene.
- **CO Justin Vinson** was leaving the field office when he observed a side by side traveling northbound on M-123. A traffic stop was conducted and when asked why they were operating on the highway, the owner claimed the hotel clerk told him to go this way. A warning was given, and the operator was educated on proper routes ORV's could take near Newberry.
- **CO Mike Olesen** patrolled the St. Mary's River checking boaters and anglers. During the patrol, multiple anglers were checked for a valid fishing license along with proper boating equipment. Most of the anglers were located behind the power plant on the river, fishing for Atlantic salmon and whitefish. No violations were observed during the patrol.
- **CO Mike Olesen** performed a marine patrol of the St. Mary's River from Sault Sainte Marie south. Patrolling around Sugar and Neebish Island. CO Olesen checked common fishing locations during the patrol. Checking anglers on boats along with some fishing from shore. All anglers were in compliance with Michigan law.
- **CO Olesen** came across 3 kayakers who had just departed from shore. Unfortunately, all three kayaks lacked having any personal floatation device (PFD) on board. CO Olesen had the trio return to shore so they could retrieve PFD's. A warning was issued for kayaking without a PFD.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol when a call for assistance was received nearby. CO VanOosten responded to members of the Luce County Sherriff Department who were attempting to bring an individual into protective custody. The subject has an altered mental status and has made several statements over the last month about taking his life as well as the life of police officers. As CO VanOosten arrived on scene to assist the other officers the subject became irritated and began fleeing on foot

towards a nearby residence where several onlookers were standing. CO VanOosten was able to chase the subject down and apprehend him. The suspect was transported to the hospital to receive the proper mental evaluation and treatment.

- **CO Cole VanOosten** received a complaint from members of Muskellunge State Park who stated that a truck was stuck on the sand dunes of Lake Superior. CO VanOosten was able to respond and found a truck buried to the axle on the dune. A lot of erosion was created as a result of the drivers' actions and a large amount of dune grass had been disturbed. The driver was still sitting in the vehicle as it idled when CO VanOosten arrived and stated he was exploring during his time in the Upper Peninsula. CO VanOosten advised the driver that he can explore all he wants but must keep his truck on the road and certainly cannot ruin the beach by driving on it. A citation was issued for creating erosive conditions and warnings were issued for operating in a closed area, operating on state land, and driving without a valid driver's license.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol when a call came from Central Dispatch of an attempted suicide nearby. CO VanOosten was first on scene and determined that the individual had taken several prescription medications and a large amount of methamphetamines. CO VanOosten provided medical attention until EMS personal arrived.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 6-28-2021

- **COs Robert Freeborn and Mike Evink** were on patrol when they observed an ORV coming at them with 2 riders with no helmets along a county road. As the COs went by the ORV turned abruptly into a driveway and then got on an old skidder trail. CO Freeborn recognized the operator from several previous contacts and knew he lived in the area. CO Freeborn dropped off CO Evink so he could proceed on foot to the suspected residence while CO Freeborn stayed in the truck to follow the tracks. CO Freeborn was able to follow the ORV tracks for several hundred yards before he observed the ORV parked behind a house. As CO Freeborn approached the ORV, it was still making the clicking noise from cooling down. CO Freeborn then located the 2 suspects standing by a car pretending to be doing something with the door. CO Freeborn identified himself and the 2 suspects seemed very startled. The suspects admitted being on the ORV and stated they were not trying to avoid the CO's. CO Freeborn advised he did not believe them and addressed the violations he observed. A citation was issued for no helmets and the subjects were educated on riding double on an ORV not manufactured to do so.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Mike Evink** received a complaint of an injured eagle in a populated place. The eagle had severe injuries and per the raptor rehab center it had to be euthanized. The eagle will be turned over to wildlife division.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a complaint of a dead eagle from the local power company that had been electrocuted by a power line. CO Freeborn met with the linemen and turned the eagle over to wildlife division.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink** conducted a patrol of Lake Michigan from Manistique. Three of the first four boats contacted were fishing with too many lines. The COs issued tickets to each responsible fisherman. Including one whom CO Evink had issued a ticket to in 2013 for the same infraction.
- **CO Michael Evink** assisted MSP troopers with a late night camper dispute at a private campground. There was a camping site line dispute that escalated to the point of one of the sites occupants being asked to leave. The occupants were escorted from the campground.
- While on patrol on Little Bay de Noc with **CO Steve Butzin, CO Andrea Dani** observed a pontoon boat underway with a male passenger riding on the bow of the boat with his legs hanging over the side. Officers initiated a stop of the vessel. The operator was issued a citation for the safety violation of allowing a person to ride on the bow of the boat while exceeding a slow, no wake speed.
- While on patrol in Alger County, **CO Andrea Dani** observed the operators of two four-wheelers operating over the 25 mph speed limit without helmets or eye protection on a county road. CO Dani conducted a traffic stop of the two four-wheelers. Both operators were issued a citation for operating an ORV without a helmet or eye-protection.
- **CO Andrea Dani** heard Alger County Dispatch a BOL for a pickup truck travelling all over the roadway starting on M-28 and continuing onto M-94. Dispatch advised they had received three 9-1-1 calls referencing the activities of the suspect truck. CO Dani observed the suspect vehicle approach her on M-94 crossing the white fog line. She then followed the suspect vehicle, observing it swerve throughout its' lane approaching the center line and exiting the white fog line. CO Dani conducted a traffic stop and observed the driver to be speaking slowly and have glossy bloodshot eyes. SGT. Sam Grahovac from the Alger County Sheriff Department assisted with the OWI investigation. The result of the preliminary blood test was .104% BAC. The driver was arrested and was lodged at the Alger County Jail for Operating While Intoxicated.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** trained in tandem with Alger County Sheriff's Department, Michigan State Police, U.S. Coast Guard, and the Park Service. The training was focused on an active shooter on the Pictured Rocks cruise boats. The teams trained on how to take down and apprehend an active shooter on the cruise boats and then how to triage patients and get them to shore where EMS could treat the victims.
- **Cpl. Mike Hammill and CO Mark Zitnik** patrolled from the Escanaba Harbor to Manistique checking anglers along the way who were targeting King salmon that were migrating into the area. All anglers and boaters followed the law, and no citations or warnings were issued.

- **COs Andrea Dani and Mark Zitnik** worked a two-day fishing tournament in Grand Marais, over 50 anglers were checked during the two-day patrol without any violations being witnessed. The anglers had fair weather and decent fishing, in all the participants were happy to see the COs checking for compliance.
- **CO Steve Butzin** successfully served three arrest warrants on individuals for taking whitetail deer during the 2020 deer season without licenses. These cases are pending prosecution at the 94th District Court in Delta County.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was patrolling Little Bay de Noc when he encountered several violations. These violations included individuals fishing without licenses and failing to provide a personal flotation device while aboard a watercraft. Several citations were issued.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was conducting a marine patrol when he contacted a boat with four individuals that were fishing. As CO Sumbera pulled along side the vessel the two individuals in the back of the boat immediately reeled in their lines and set the rods inside the boat. Further investigation revealed that the two individuals were fishing without fishing licenses, stating it was their belief that Michigan allowed for anglers to choose any three days in which they could fish without a license. Citations were issued for fishing without a license to both individuals.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was conducting an ORV patrol on Drummond Island when he contacted an ORV with two individuals riding on it. Both occupants were riding without helmets and the ORV was not manufactured to transport a passenger. While running files on the subjects the operator returned with two felony warrants out of southern Michigan. CO Todd Sumbera took the subject into custody and transported him to the Michigan State Police Post in St. Ignace for transport downstate.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on patrol in Chippewa County when 2 UTVs were observed operating on a state highway. A traffic stop was conducted, and the lead operator was cited for operating a UTV without proper safety equipment and given a warning for operating on a state highway. Directions were provided to the group to legal ORV trails.
- **COs Mike Olesen and Colton Gelinias** patrolled the Straights Area State Campground during the St. Ignace car show. During the patrol COs assisted parks staff in locating children missing from a campsite and contacting campers regarding a noise complaint.
- **CO Mike Olesen** investigated a wildfire that occurred in Chippewa County. The fire started due to an individual that was having a campfire and did not properly extinguish the fire. Not long after leaving the fire rekindled and burned approximately 2 acres, most of which was on a neighboring property. A report is being written and will be submitted to the Chippewa County Prosecutor.
- **CO Colton Gelinias** is investigating several timber theft complaints in Western Mackinac. These cases were discovered by DNR Forestry Division.
- **CO Colton Gelinias** received a complaint reference a buoy creating a navigational hazard on an inland lake in central Mackinac County. CO Gelinias was able to determine the owner of the buoy and had them remove the buoy from the lake.
- **COs Colton Gelinias and Cole VanOosten** received a call from Central Dispatch at 1:30 am regarding an elderly male that did not return back to the cabin from a four-wheeler ride. After nine hours of searching in a thunderstorm, the lost individual was found. The individual was transported to Helen Newberry Hospital for further evaluation for hypothermia and dehydration. The COs were assisted by Luce County Sheriff Deputy Mike Jago and Michigan State Police.
- **COs Colton Gelinias, Todd Sumbera and Michael Olesen** assisted Straits State Park with enhanced patrols during the St. Ignace Car Show weekend.
- **COs Colton Gelinias and Michael Olesen** assisted Mackinac County Sheriff's Department with a single vehicle personal injury accident.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** responded to a call of a 74-Year-old fisherman on the East Branch of the Two-Hearted River that had failed to return to camp. The fisherman's partner said he had yelled to his friend and heard him yell back but the yells became more distant before stopping all together. The COs assisted in mobilizing multiple search and rescue assets as well as searching the river for signs of the fisherman and using emergency sirens to attempt to draw the lost angler to their location. After several hours of search and rescue efforts, the angler was located shortly after 2am the next morning on a road on the opposite side of the river from where he started fishing. The angler stated he had walked a long ways down river when it started getting dark. The angler then exited the river to try to find a road opposed to trying to walk back the way he came.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on Patrol of Big Manistique Lake when he contacted two anglers who were fishing for walleye. When asked if they had any luck, the fishermen stated that they had caught two walleyes. When asked how big the walleye was, one angler said they were both over 17" while the other angler stated, "Hopefully long enough". CO VanOosten inspected the fish and determined that one of the fish was only 14" long. CO VanOosten reminded the anglers of the importance of measuring their catch correctly. A citation was issued for possessing a walleye less than 15 inches and the fish was able to be released successfully back into the lake.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was following up on an investigation involving illegal camping on Commercial Forest lands (CFR) when the suspect was spotted operating an unregistered ORV without a helmet on a nearby road. A traffic stop was conducted, and a citation was issued to the individual for operating an unregistered ORV and a warning was issued for failure to wear a helmet on an ORV and illegal camping on CFR land.

- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on marine safety patrol of Northern Luce County when he observed a two-person kayak in the middle of the lake. The individuals appeared to be struggling to paddle as their paddle was in two pieces. CO VanOosten contacted the individuals who stated that they were not in need of assistance. CO VanOosten determined that neither individual had a lifejacket on board and were nearly 3/8 of a mile offshore in deep water. The kayakers stated that they were from Wisconsin and didn't know that you needed a life jacket in Michigan. CO VanOosten informed them that Wisconsin's laws are the same as Michigan with regards to use of Personal floatation devices (PFD's). CO VanOosten assisted the kayakers in returning safely to shore and stressed the importance of having a PFD on board when doing any boating activity. A citation was issued for failing to provide PFD's in a kayak.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** concluded a court case from the fall of 2020 involving a dog that had been killed in an illegal trap on state land in Chippewa County. The trapper pled guilty to two counts of using an illegal conibear on state land and was ordered to pay \$1,130 in fines, court cost and restitution as well as forfeited the three 330 conibears that he had set on the ground on state land. The individual lost hunting and trapping privileges for one year and was ordered to take a trappers safety course before trapping again.
- **CO Justin Vinson** attended an emergency management plan meeting regarding Camp Paradise. Chippewa County Sheriff, Whitefish Township Fire and EMS, and Luce County Emergency Management all attended the meeting. The meeting covered several topics focused on procedures for extraction of campers in various emergencies due to the camp's remote nature.
- **CO Justin Vinson** assisted Tahquamenon State Park host the annual Two-Hearted 50K. The event consists of 3 races, a half marathon, a full marathon, and a 50-kilometer race, spanning from the Reed and Green bridge to the mouth of the Two Hearted River, and finishing at the Tahquamenon Upper Falls. The event hosted over 140 participants who were greeted with mild weather, and all finished the race.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 7-12-2021

- **COs Todd Sumbera and Colton Gelinis** assisted Straits State Park with night patrol during the busy Car Show weekend in St. Ignace. During their patrol, the two COs assisted St. Ignace Police Department with a vehicle search.
- **COs Michael Evink, Cole VanOosten and Colton Gelinis** patrolled Lake Michigan waters down to Beaver Island making a lot of fishing and marine safety checks along the way. Compliance was high and several vessels were surprised to see the COs.
- **COs Todd Sumbera and Colton Gelinis** were patrol the waters around Drummond Island, when they came across a stranded vessel. The COs were able to assist the vessel to the marina.
- While on marine patrol near Drummond Island, **COs Todd Sumbera and Colton Gelinis** observed six jet skis, all showing expired registration/no visible registration numbers. After talking with the group, it was determined most of the jet skis were recently purchased and awaiting their registration decals/numbers. However, two jet skis were never registered after being purchased. Citations were issued to two of the operators for expired registration/failure to transfer ownership.
- While on marine patrol in Western Mackinac County, **CO Colton Gelinis** observed a boat towing a wakeboarder with no observer. A stop was initiated on the boat during which it was determined the boat had an expired registration, and no type four PFD. A citation was issued for towing with no observer and warnings were given for the two other violations.
- **COs Colton Gelinis and Todd Sumbera** were on marine patrol in Luce County, when the two COs observed two jet skis with expired registrations. It was determined that the jet skis were purchased together back in 2015 and never registered with the State of Michigan. A citation was issued for operate unregistered vessel.
- **COs Colton Gelinis and Todd Sumbera** worked fireworks in Western Mackinac County. Overall compliance was good for proper navigational lights.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol of Big Manistique Lake when he heard a call for assistance from a nearby Luce County Sheriff Deputy. The deputy was on a personal watercraft (PWC) and located a sailboat that had capsized in the wind and waves with two adults and a child on board. While attempting to assist the distressed vessel, the deputy's patrol vessel became tangled in lines in the water, immobilizing his vessel. CO VanOosten responded from a short distance away, locating the sailboat with the male victim still in the water struggling to right the vessel. The victims PFD had come off and the subject appeared to be fatigued. CO VanOosten assisted the male subject onto his patrol boat equipped him with a more suitable PFD, was able to assist the man in righting his vessel and towing it to shore as two civilian pontoons were able to transport the woman and her daughter.
- **COs Todd Sumbera and Cole VanOosten** were on marine patrol of Lake Huron on the fourth of July weekend when they conducted a routine check on 3 kayakers that were attempting to paddle back to their residence in increasing winds. The CO's observed a young girl wearing her PFD who was in the kayak with her mother. The young girl was issued a coupon for a free McDonald Ice cream cone. The COs asked the mother if her and her son, who was in the other kayak had life jackets onboard. The woman stated that they had saw the weather getting worse so they hurried up and started paddling for their cabin but must have left their life jackets on shore. The COs informed the woman that not carrying a proper PFD on a kayak is a huge safety concern especially in high winds on Lake Huron. A citation was issued to the woman for failing to provide a PFD in a

kayak and the three kayakers were safely escorted approximately ½ mile to their residence where they were able to continue to enjoy their holiday weekend.

- **COs Todd Sumbera and Cole VanOosten** were on marine patrol of Lake Huron on the fourth of July weekend when they observed a vessel operating well after dark without the use of navigation lights. The COs were unable to see the vessel until the driver occasionally used a spotlight to scan the area ahead of him. A stop was conducted, and the driver stated that they were trying to illuminate the bow light with a cellphone flashlight. The COs advised the driver that it is his responsibility to ensure his navigational lights are in working order before leaving the dock and a cellphone flashlight does not suffice especially on a busy holiday weekend. A citation was issued for failing to illuminate navigation lights while under power.
- **COs Todd Sumbera and Cole VanOosten** were conducting a marine patrol on July 3rd in Lake Huron near the Les Cheneaux Islands when they observed a personal watercraft (PWC) being operated nearby. After about twenty minutes had past, the COs observed an object floating in the water approximately a half mile away that was near the previous location of the PWC. The COs operated their patrol boat towards the object for further investigation. As they approached the location, they could hear a woman yelling and flailing her arms, saying “help him”! The woman was attempting to swim back to the PWC they had been riding which was floating away from them due to the high winds and rough seas. The second individual that was in the water was approximately 30 yards away from the PWC and was struggling to keep his head above water. The COs quickly maneuvered the patrol boat and were able to pull the man out of the water and into the boat. The woman was able to swim to the PWC but the safety lanyard that is required to start the machine was attached to the man’s personal floatation device (PFD). The COs attended to the male victim as he had inhaled quite a bit of water during his struggle due to repeatedly slipping through an improperly fitting PFD and was extremely cold as the water temperature was only 59 degrees. The man repeatedly stated, “you guys saved my life, how did you ever find us!” CO Sumbera informed the man that they did not save his life but the PFD he was wearing was the reason he was alive. The COs were able to provide the key to the female on the PWC who then safely returned to shore. The COs safely returned the male to his party where they were extremely thankful for their efforts.
- **COs Todd Sumbera and Colton Gelinas** were conducting marine patrol near Drummond Island when contacting individuals aboard a vessel with motor issues. The COs towed the stranded vessel with four occupants approximately one mile to a nearby marina where the occupants were able to safely exit the water.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was conducting a marine patrol in the Les Cheneaux Islands when contacting a boat with three anglers. CO Sumbera asked if they were having any luck and they stated, “it is pretty slow”. The young child on the boat then yelled we have a pike in the cooler, CO Sumbera asked the kid how big it was, and she stated, “it’s 20 inches”. The angler who caught the fish quickly claimed the fish swallowed the hook and was dead in the cooler. The pike was found to still be flopping around while showing CO Sumbera the fish. A citation was issued for possession of an undersized northern pike.
- **COs Todd Sumbera and Cole VanOosten** conducted a marine patrol July 3rd contacting lots of vessels with most people in accordance with the law. The COs encountered a few expired registrations on vessels, decals/numbers that had been failed to be displayed, and a couple of lifejacket violations. Overall compliance was high. The COs issued five citations for the above violations.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** conducted a marine patrol the morning of July 3rd, contacting a group of anglers that were trolling for pike and walleye. Two of the three anglers were fishing without licenses and stated that they knew they were required to fish but took their chances. Citations were issued for fishing without a license.
- **CO Justin Vinson** responded to a call of a reckless driver operating against the flow of traffic and at a fast speed during Newberry’s annual 4th of July parade. Once on scene, she stepped from the vehicle and explained she was just trying to get home. The woman appeared emotionally upset and impaired. Shortly after Michigan State Trooper Racheal Olesen arrived, CO Vinson assisted MSP with field sobrieties, arrest and search of the vehicle.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Sgt. Calvin Smith** patrolled North Manistique and Big Manistique Lakes over the 4th of July weekend. Several violations were witnessed including operating a PWC within 100 feet of vessels and swimmers, failure to display registration and failure to provide a PFD. Several warnings and a citation were issued.
- **CO Justin Vinson** assisted Mackinac County Sheriff Department on a call involving an 18-year-old male, with possible back injuries. The male had fallen from a rope swing along the Brevort Lake shoreline, landing near the water’s edge. The young man was transported via boat to a nearby residence where his injuries were assessed. EMS transported the male to St. Ignace to have his injuries evaluated.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on patrol in Chippewa County, heading to investigate a brushfire that occurred a few days prior. While traveling a state highway towards the destination, multiple ORVs were observed operating on the state highway. CO Olesen activated his emergency lights and conducted a traffic stop of the group of ORVs. Contact was made and the violation was explained. It was also observed that the front operator was not wearing the equipped safety equipment for his ORV. The group of riders were provided a map showing the local ORV trails in the Hiawatha National Forest and the lead driver was cited for operating on ORV without proper safety equipment.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on routine patrol in Chippewa County when he observed 3 ORVs traveling down trail 47. From his observation it was determined that at least one of the ORVs did not have proper licensing. A stop was conducted on the group,

and it was determined that 2 of the 3 ORVs were not licensed properly. It was determined that the riders had traveled from Mackinac County and were currently returning to their residence. Citations were issued for operating an unlicensed ORV.

- **COs Michael Evink and Steven Butzin** conducted a patrol of Lake Michigan. As soon as the officers left port they were flagged down by a stranded Salmon boat. The COs assisted the boat and safely returned it to the marina and continued their patrol. There were a lot of fishing boats out due to the hot salmon bite. The COs issued one ticket for fishing with too many lines.
- **COs Robert Freeborn, Steven Butzin, Mark Zitnik and Michael Evink** conducted a night patrol of Lake Michigan in response to Navigation light complaints. The lake was busy with lots of boat traffic. The COs issued 3 tickets for not using navigation lights and gave five additional warnings. The patrol was well received due to safety concerns on the water.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Michael Evink** patrolled Big Bay de Noc for Marine violations. The COs checked numerous boats across the bay. As they approached one the COs observed what looked like an undersized pike on a stringer. The COs asked how big the pike was. The fisherman answered they were not sure since they had not measured it. They then proceeded to measure the fish on the gunnel of the boat. The COs were informed that it was 21 inches. The fisherman who caught the Pike was ticketed for possessing an undersized Pike.
- **CO Andrea Dani** received a complaint about a dumping location on Chamberlain Road. The dump included several bags of garbage torn open and scattered by animals, as well as multiple push mowers. CO Dani located several pieces of mail within the trash showing the suspect's name and address. CO Dani contacted the suspect who denied involvement and showed CO Dani receipts from going to the landfill with trash. Eventually the suspect confessed, stating on the last trip to the landfill, it was closed, so he decided to dump the trash in the woods. The suspect was issued a citation for knowingly dumping litter on unauthorized property and ordered to remove the trash.
- **CO Andrea Dani** observed two anglers on AuTrain Lake fishing in a boat with expired registration. CO Dani checked the anglers and discovered the boat was a rental (which would be followed up on later). CO Dani then checked the angler's licenses. Neither had their fishing licenses on their person, so CO Dani ran them through Station 20. The operator of the boat did not purchase a 2021 fishing license and was subsequently issued a citation.
- While on patrol in Schoolcraft County, **COs Andrea Dani and Mike Evink** observed a 3-wheeler operating on US-2. Officers followed the ORV, dropping their patrol boat and trailer, and proceeded onto a 2-track. Officers caught up to the ORV, and the operator was issued a citation for operating an ORV on a public highway.
- While on patrol in Murray's Bay, **COs Andrea Dani and Mark Zitnik** observed a PWC towing two people on a tube. No spotter was present. The PWC operator was given a warning for towing without a spotter.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was patrolling Little Bay de Noc when he encountered several violations. These violations included individuals fishing without licenses, operating a boat and PWC without registration and operating past sunset without navigation lights. Several citations and warnings were issued.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was doing follow up from this past deer season when he encountered two different individuals with several violations. These violations included loaning and borrowing the license of another as well as taking deer without licenses. In all, two eight-point bucks were taken without licenses. Several reports are being submitted to the Delta County Prosecutors Office requesting charges on these violations.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** responded to a complaint of a stranded vessel out in Lake Michigan. The vessel had been out salmon fishing when both its engines quite due to possible bad fuel. CO Freeborn located the vessel approximately 8 miles offshore. CO Freeborn was able to tow the vessel back to the Manistique harbor where the fisherman was thankful to be back on the mainland.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Mike Evink** were on routine patrol when they observed a boat with a possible expired registration. Upon making contact with the fishermen, it was determined that it was expired and that they were short a PFD. A citation was issued for the PFD and a warning for the expired registration.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** was on routine patrol when he observed a PWC take off from shore and start doing "donuts" in front of him resulting in the kill switch being engaged. As the PWC came to a stop, CO Freeborn noticed that there wasn't a registration on the PWC. Upon talking with the operator, it was determined that it was last registered in 1999. A citation was issued for the expired registration.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Mark Zitnik** patrolled the annual Grand Marais fishing tournament. The COs made sure the competitors in the tournament were in compliance with the fishing regulations and being safe. In all there were 29 boats in the tournament all boat they checked observed were observing the law. The public was happy to see the COs in the area and were thanked for their presence.
- **COs Steve Butzin and Mark Zitnik** were patrolling to Fairport when they checked an angler who informed them, he had two bass and a large pike. CO Butzin asked if the bass were 14 inches and the angler stated they were smaller. The COs took the bass and measured them at 7 inches. The angler was issued a citation for keeping short bass.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** conducted a group patrol with the National Park Service in Grand Marais. They were checking for marine compliance along the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. While on their patrol, Park Ranger Shaun Hughes observed illegal

camping along the lakeshore. The two contacted the campers and Park Ranger Hughes cited the two men for illegal camping and possessing a controlled substance.

- **COs Andrea Dani and Mark Zitnik** were patrolling Au Train Lake on the morning of the 4th of July when they observed an angler with an expired boat registration. A stop was made and the COs located two walleye in the boat. One was legal size, but the second fish was only 13.5 inches. The angler was cited for possessing a short walleye and given a warning for the expired boat registration.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Mark Zitnik** participated in the annual 4th of July parade in Munising. The COs pulled their Lund Baron patrol boat and gave the children candy and Smokey the Bear Frisbees. The crowd was happy to see the COs in the parade and they received many positive comments on their presence and equipment.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Mark Zitnik** were on Munising Bay utilizing their PWCs on a busy 4th of July checking to make sure each boat was being safe and enjoying the holiday weekend. While patrolling into Murray's Bay the COs noticed a motorized canoe without the appropriate PFDs on board. A stop was made, and the COs issued a citation for no PFD. The operator of the boat apologized and thanked the Cos for the reminder.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** was having issues with a nuisance bear at a residence. After weeks of trying to haze the bear from the area it was obvious that the bear was not going to leave and needed to be relocated. The CO with the help of Wildlife Technician Caleb Eckloff successfully trapped the young bear on the first night. The CO transported the bear over 70 miles away in hopes it will live a good life in a remote area without causing any further damage to homes.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 7-26-2021

- **CO Steve Butzin** was doing follow up from this past deer season when he encountered an individual with several violations. These violations included borrowing the license of another as well as taking deer without a license. During this investigation CO Butzin was assisted by Illinois Conservation Police as one suspect lives out of state. A 7-point buck was seized during the investigation. A report has been submitted to the Delta County Prosecutors Office requesting charges on these violations.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Mark Zitnik** assisted the Forest Service and Alger County EMS with a patrol focused on runners in the Grand Island Marathon. The officers rode bicycles around the race area encouraging runners along the way, and were grateful to not encounter any injured runners during their shift.
- The Delta County Prosecutor's Office authorized charges on an investigation in Bay de Noc Township reference the lending/borrowing of a deer license from last deer season that resulted in a hunter taking an overlimit of antlered deer. **COs Andrea Dani and Steve Butzin** served complaint warrants on the involved subjects.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Mark Zitnik** responded with Michigan State Police to AuTrain Bay for a report of a kayak washed up on shore with clothing surrounding the area, but no one around. The water was very violent that day with large waves. Officers located the kayak, which was not a sea kayak, and discovered several unopened adult beverages washed ashore as well. As officers continued their investigation around the beach, in the parking lot, and at neighboring locations, CO Zitnik thankfully contacted a landowner up the road that knew of a rental cabin on that road. CO Zitnik made contact with the renters and discovered the kayak belonged to their group. All persons were accounted for. During the night, the tide had swept the loaded kayak in question, and another kayak, from the rental property, which then washed up on shore. Information for the additional lost kayak was turned over to the Coast Guard.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** responded to Au Train for a live power wire that was hanging over a dump truck. Once on scene the power company had shut off the power and was able to get the truck free from the wire.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** responded to a boat sunk in AuTrain Bay. On scene the CO observed Skips towing extract the vessel from Lake Superior.
- **CO Michael Evink** conducted a patrol of the women's salmon derby by sea-doo. Compliance was good and two marine safety warnings were issued.
- **CO Michael Evink** was first on scene for a Pole Barn fully engulfed in flames. Once fire personal were on scene CO Evink assisted the all-volunteer fire department in pulling hoses and setting up water tanks. The barn appears to be a total loss.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a complaint of a salmon boat that struck a construction barge early in the AM. The captain of the salmon boat stated that the barge was blocking most of the river and was not lit. After a several day investigation, it was determined through interviews and surveillance footage that the barge did have anchor lights on and the captain failed to navigate around the barge. Although serious damage was caused to the boat, no injuries were sustained by captain or crew member.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** worked several nights on Mackinac Island for the Chicago yacht race. Although this year's event was busy, there were no major incidents to report, and all contestants had fun.
- **CO Colton Gelinas** is investigating a timber theft trespass case in Mackinac County stemming back from 2019-2020. The case is ongoing.

- **COs Cole VanOosten and Colton Gelinias** conducted interviews with two suspects in the larceny of trail cameras from earlier this spring. Confessions were obtained during the interviews and a report is being submitted to Mackinac County Prosecutors Office.
- **COs Colton Gelinias, Robert Freeborn, and Cpl. Kevin Postma** received a call for a possible missing person in the Straits of Mackinac. The three COs, US Coast Guard, Cheboygan County Sheriffs Dept and Mackinac Island Fire Rescue, searched the area in question for several hours. The water toy was found in the water, and nobody was on the toy. No official missing person complaint was received, besides someone from shore noticing the water toy and thought someone was on it.
- **COs Colton Gelinias, Michael Olsen, Todd Sumbera, Cole VanOosten, Robert Freeborn, Cpl Kevin Postma and Sergeant Sgt Calvin Smith** patrolled the Bayview Yacht Races into Mackinac Island.
- **COs Colton Gelinias and Todd Sumbera** received a call reference a 18th Century shipwreck in Naubinway. The wreck is starting to be exposed and the private property the wreck is located on had questions as to preservation of the wreck. The COs were able to provide assistance to the private entity regarding the preservation process.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Mike Evink** patrolled between Manistique, Snail Harbor, and the Wisconsin Michigan boundary waters for fishing and marine activity. Fishing had slowed down with anglers averaging between 3-5 salmon or steelhead per boat. Marine and fishing regulations were in high compliance as only a few minor violations were observed with verbal warnings being issued.
- **COs Todd Sumbera and Sergeant Sgt Calvin Smith** attended the Sault Region Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC) meeting in Chippewa County. Drones were the primary topic on hand with numerous vendors representing different organizations. Each organization displayed their drones and explained their capabilities, this was followed up with an outdoor session for members in attendance to see the drones work in real life situations.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** conducted an ORV patrol on Drummond Island contacting numerous riders. Most people were in compliance with laws regulating ORV operation. CO Sumbera stopped a group of ORVs riding double, the operators of the quads were not wearing helmets. CO Sumbera explained the laws to the group and issued a citation for no helmet. A warning was issued for riding double on an ORV not designed to carry more than one passenger.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** conducted a marine patrol in the Eastern UP when he contacted a boat of fishermen. Upon investigation CO Sumbera found that one individual was fishing without a license, her husband stated that he had a license and thought that she could fish under his license. Past license history showed that the husband and wife both possessed licenses in the same calendar year in years past. CO Sumbera issued a citation for fishing without a license.
- **Cpl Kevin Postma and Sgt Calvin Smith** attended the 2021 Straits Shield Full Scale Law Enforcement briefing at the USCG station in St. Ignace.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on a late-night patrol of Big Manistique Lake when he spotted a vessel a short distance away operating without navigation lights nearly an hour and a half after sunset. A stop was conducted, and CO VanOosten informed the driver of the boat that he had almost caused a collision because he did not have navigation lights. The operator stated “well, I could see you”. CO VanOosten informed the operator of the extreme hazard of operating after dark without proper navigation lights. It was determined that the operator and two passengers did not have any PFDs aboard the vessel and also did not have a fire extinguisher or paper registration. The driver of the boat stated that he saw CO VanOosten’s patrol truck in the parking lot but was hoping that they could get out on the lake without being detected. It was determined that the operator also had two misdemeanor warrants for conservation violations committed earlier in the year. CO VanOosten issued the individual citations for operating without navigation lights and failure to provide PFD. Warnings were issued for the remaining violations and CO VanOosten was able to collect bond for the pending warrants on the driver.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** had been investigating two State of Michigan motion activated cameras that had been stolen earlier this spring. Several interviews were conducted without success. CO VanOosten then received a call from the Luce County Sherriff Department stating that an individual had two motion activated cameras that he stated he believed belonged to the DNR. The subject relayed how he came into possession of the cameras. Interviews were conducted and confessions were obtained from the subjects who had stolen the cameras. A report was generated for review from the Mackinac County Prosecutors office for larceny of state property.
- **COs Colton Gelinias, Mark Zitnik, Cole VanOosten, and Sgt Calvin Smith** were able to assist in salvaging a roadkill moose in Chippewa County, donating it to local families. In total, the COs were able to donate nearly 200lbs of moose meat to local families in need.
- **COs Mike Olesen, Cole VanOosten, Sgt Calvin Smith,** and Michigan State Police (MSP) Trooper Jeremiah Parks responded to an individual that was having difficulties returning to shore near Mackinac City. The individual had ventured to far out into Lake Huron on a stand-up paddle board. The Officers responded in the departments SAFE boat from Mackinac Island Harbor and a upon their arrival the individual was safely back on shore being tended to by local EMS personal.
- **COs Colton Gelinias and Cole VanOosten** were on patrol of South Manistique Lake when they observed a pontoon operating with an expired registration. A stop was conducted, and it was determined that the boat had been expired since 2015 despite having a 2021 sticker attached. The operator admitted that he had got the boat because a family had left the area leaving the

boat behind. He stated that he was not able to register the boat under his name because he did not have the proper paperwork, so he just put a registration sticker from another vessel on the boat and began renting it out to vacationers. Upon further inspection, it was determined that the boat also did not have a type 4 PFD and the operator was unable to provide a paper registration. A citation was issued for operating an expired watercraft and failure to provide a type 4 PFD. Warnings were issued for using an improper registration sticker and failure to provide a paper registration.

- **COs Mike Olesen, Cole VanOosten, and Sgt Calvin Smith** patrolled the straights of Mackinac for the Chicago Yacht Race. During the patrol multiple vessels were contacted, leading to the citations being issued for fail to display a valid marine registration and no type 4 personal floatation device (PFD) onboard.

Eastern UP Fisheries Division – Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Biologist, Lake Superior Mgmt Unit

Unit Update

- Newberry field crew conducted electrofishing surveys on streams located in the US-2 corridor. Streams included McApline Creek, Hog Island Creek, Cut River, and Paquin Creek. The field crew is also preparing for their August Status and Trends stream sampling across the eastern UP. Streams include Tahquamenon River, Rock River, Chocolatey River, EB Fox River, Cheney Creek, and Pte. Aux Chenes River.
- Newberry staff assisted the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Bay Mills Indian Community in a netting index survey for lake sturgeon on Whitefish Bay in Lake Superior. These index surveys help to understand more about lake sturgeon population trends in Lake Superior. There are multiple locations where these surveys are conducted from Duluth to Sault Ste. Marie.
- Michigan DNR walleye rearing pond harvest has been completed. Eastern UP waters that have been stocked with spring fingerling walleye from MDNR rearing ponds include Au Train Lake, Bodi Lake, Caribou Lake, Clear Lake, Corner Lake, Frenchman Lake, Indian Lake, Little Bay de Noc, Little Lake Harbor, Muskallonge Lake, North Manistique Lake, Pete’s Lake, Skeels Lake, and Triangle Lake. For a complete list of waters and numbers stocked in 2021, please see the Michigan DNR Fish Stocking Database [DNR \(state.mi.us\)](https://www.dnr.state.mi.us)
- Angler effort is being evaluated at three area trout lakes by using game cameras. This method is a simple way to capture angler effort and some harvest which helps fisheries managers to make decisions on stocking rates and regulations.
- Fisheries managers attended the Lake Superior Technical Committee meeting. The technical committee consists of representatives from all-natural resource agencies of Lake Superior. This meeting is facilitated under the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Trends in Lake Superior fish populations are discussed and analyzed during this meeting.
- Fisheries staff joined Forest Resource Division staff for a road stream crossing inventory training. Forest Resource Division is preparing to embark on a two-year project inventorying all road stream crossings on state land.
- Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development Council was awarded a Fisheries Habitat Grant to complete a road stream crossing inventory for the Tahquamenon River watershed. Some of these locations will overlap with the Newberry Unit, freeing up Forest Resource Division staff for other locations.
- Fisheries managers have participated in Forest Resources Division Pre-review meetings as part of the Compartment Review process. Fisheries staff provides comments and guidance when prescribed treatments are being proposed in stands near surface water.
- Newberry field crew completed reconnaissance of area lakes in preparation for future Status and Trends sampling. Some public lakes have never been surveyed using these protocols in previous years. The intention of this effort is to identify suitable access and whether the lake has acceptable water depth. Lakes are selected off a randomized list.
- The new registration systems for muskellunge and lake sturgeon are completed. The registration line is 888-636-7778 and the reporting weblink is Michigan.gov/RegisterFish. Reminder that muskie and lake sturgeon have a harvest limit of 1 per angler per license year. See the 2021 Michigan Fishing Guide for additional seasons and length restrictions. Since the harvest season opened (June 5) for muskellunge in 2021, nine fish have been harvested. Lake sturgeon harvest season began on July 16. Zero lake sturgeon have been registered.

Fish Production Updates by Dan Sampson, Manager of Marquette, Thompson & Oden State Fish Hatcheries

- **Staffing** - More changes have occurred with our team.
 - Mike Meadows has been hired to fill the State Worker position at Oden. This vacancy occurred when Matt Lyons accepted a promotion at Thompson as the Fisheries Assistant.

- Oden’s Trades Helper position is vacant.
- **Marquette State Fish Hatchery**
 - The Cherry Creek stabilization project has begun, with significant progress happening for the access road. Significant delays are occurring due to supply-side issues for rebar, needed for the precast cement channel sections. The project is expected to be completed by late autumn.
 - Fish Culture:
 - All fish for 2022 spring stocking have been moved to the production raceways and are doing very well.
 - The 2-year-old Arctic Grayling are doing very well. The plan is to hold them all in the nursery until the construction project is complete.
- **Thompson State Fish Hatchery**
 - Coldwater facility: This project is essentially complete, but there are a few minor issues to be ironed out. Ponds are currently being filled so they are ready for Muskellunge.
 - Fish Culture:
 - Steelhead for spring 2022 stocking are in the nursery yet. Grading, inventorying, and mass-marking will begin in mid-August.
 - Muskellunge will be transferred from Wolf Lake SFH in Mid-August.
- **Oden State Fish Hatchery**
 - Construction has begun on the brood building dehumidification project. This should be a quick project and greatly improve conditions in the building.
 - Fish Culture:
 - All brown & rainbow trout for 2022 spring stocking have been moved out of the nursery and into the raceways. The rainbows are remarkable, especially the advanced group that were spawned much earlier than normal due to photoperiod control on their parents. All browns are in great shape and are typical size.
 - The second group of Arctic Grayling is doing great! They’ve transitioned well from a diet of live brine shrimp to starter feed. In August, they’ll be sampled for genetics studies and tested for their first of three fish health screenings.

Parks & Recreation Division-Eastern UP Trails: Paul Gaberdiel-Eastern UP Trail Specialist

Rail-Trail Projects

- Grant sponsors continue working on projects.

Snowmobile Trail Updates

- Snowmobile clubs are receiving new equipment grants
- 2022 Season grants are being processed.
- Millecoquins River Bridge is being engineered by GEI, basic site information has been collected.

ORV Trail Updates

- Grant sponsors are starting summer maintenance runs
- Some inspections have been completed on some trails.

Equestrian Trail Projects

- Stanley lake proposal has been received. We are reviewing now.
- Headquarters Lake Trail sign proofs are done, working on submitting an order.

Pathway Projects

- Michigan Natural Features site review found no Threatened or Endangered species or species of concerns. They did find a pocket of high-quality legacy Red Pine trees, south and east of the trail.
- Blind Sucker Pathway Boardwalks materials have been ordered, contracted Superior Watershed Partnership and Land Conservancy to construct the board walks in August.

Event/Use Permits

- Drummond Island Jeep Jamboree 5-year permit went well with no issues.
- Jeep End Event scheduled for July 30th weekend was canceled because of the lack of participants.

General

- Maintenance projects are starting to get completed throughout the EUP by grant sponsors.
- Some projects were put out to bid, bides received were under budget.

- Getting out to verify some project details before sending out to bid.
- Statewide trails plan is making progress, final draft is out to Michigan Trails Advisory Council for review and approval.

Eastern UP Regional Project Update

Project Name: M-28 Indian town West	Project Name: Trail 8 3 bridges	Project Name: Bissel Creek Culvert	Project Name: Drummond Island East Marblehead Clay Holes
Description: Create french drain and gravel	Description: engineer and replace 3 bridges	Description: Engineer culvert replacement	Description: grade and cap with stone
Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use:	Trail Use: ORV
Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion: 2025
Q3 Update: Project on hold	Q3 Update: Waiting on engineers.	Q3 Update: Had 90% engineering meeting, a couple of changes, applying for EGLE permit	Q3 Update: Bid awarded to contractor, working on preconstruction meeting.
Project Name: Ashmun Bay Trail Gravel	Project Name: Wetmore Hwy-13 Culvert	Project Name: 20th Street Culvert	Project Name: Headquarters Lake Equestrian Signs
Description: remove wood chips and cap with gravel 1/2 mile	Description: extend culvert for trail	Description: Replace concrete culverts	Description: signs & canada lakes brushing
Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use:	Trail Use:	Trail Use:
Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion:	Anticipated Completion: 2021
Q3 Update: Bid awarded to contractor, need to contact for preconstruction meeting	Q3 Update: N/A	Q3 Update: N/A	Q3 Update: N/A
Project Name: Blind Sucker Pathway boardwalk	Project Name: Millecoquins River Bridge		
Description: rebuild boardwalk	Description: Snowmobile Bridge footing replacement		
Trail Use:	Trail Use: Snowmobile		
Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion: 2022		
Q3 Update: Bids have been received for materials	Q3 Update: Site surveys are almost complete.		

EUP Wildlife Division: Heather Shaw, Wildlife Biologist-Shingleton

Canada Goose Banding Effort

- Staff conducted goose banding with Bay Mills Tribe and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe and worked together to band 92 geese in the far eastern UP
- Throughout the UP region, staff exceeded the UP goose quota with a total of 372 new bands and handled another 73 recaptures for a great effort

Nuisance Wildlife Complaints

- The spring to summer transition is still a busy time for nuisance complaints as some animals enter the breeding season, tourism peaks and available food sources from the public increase. Complaints are waning as woodland food sources become readily available.

State Forest Management

- Wildlife staff are conducting forest inventory in the field during spring and summer months in concert with the foresters. Watch for open house opportunities to become familiar with forest treatments later this summer and fall.
- Land transactions, state forest boundary reviews, and other land use reviews are ongoing in all units.
- These plans can be viewed, and comments can be made in the interactive MI State Forest Map through the DNR's web site

Habitat Management

- Continued opening maintenance throughout the region, herbaceous plantings within openings, GEMS and DWC's completed July-Aug and typically include clover, rye to benefit deer and upland game birds
- Hunter walking trail improvements and access improvements continue prior to fall hunting season

Shore-to-Shore Birding Trail and Blind Sucker Flooding projects

- Wildlife staff, particularly those in the Newberry Unit, continue to partner with other organizations on development of the Shore-to-Shore Birding Trail, which is slated to span portions of Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, and Schoolcraft counties.
- \$75k EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant has been received for the Blind Sucker Flooding with focuses on removing invasive phragmites and restoring wild rice communities. Other benefits will include marsh bird surveys and developing a wildlife recreation trail around the flooding with informational kiosks. This work will occur over the next three years in concert with Marquette County partners, CISMA, MNFI and local Tribes.

Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Statewide Interpretive Manager

- DNR education staff are in the middle of another big summer at our ten visitor centers in State Parks and Fish Hatcheries across the state. Since Memorial Day Weekend, when we transitioned from virtual school programs to our summer season, we have seen steady visitation – just shy of the record-setting 2020 COVID season.
- Education staff are preparing for Bear Hunting Workshops, the 25rd Annual Saginaw Bay Waterfowl Festival, Black Iron Days at Hartwick Pines and the U.P. State Fair in Escanaba and many other great events.
- We also just wrapped up a scaled-back DNR Academy of Natural Resources at the Ralph McMullan Center in Roscommon. We welcomed 20 participating teachers again this year to natural resource education and science-based natural resource management through a week-long experience at the RAM Center in Roscommon in mid-July. ANR North will be held August 1-6 this year at the Ford Center just South of Baraga. The program is a UP version of ANR and brings an additional cultural and mining focus to the curriculum. The program in the UP also included great partnerships with Michigan Technological University, Keweenaw Bay Tribes and the National Park Service.

Forest Resources Division: Bob Burnham, Acting Eastern UP Supervisor

Timber Sales

- Newberry FMU scheduled three timber sale bid dates; six sales were offered in July. All sales were upland pine sites and sold with decent competition and had two to five bidders per sale. A lowland sale just went no bid.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU sold one Good Neighbor Authority timber sale and four state timber sales at the Sault Ste Marie office. From the Naubinway office, two sales were sold, and one sale went ‘no bid’.
- Shingleton FMU offered three sales, two of which sold, and one went ‘no bid’.
- Logging activity as about average for this time of year.
- Markets have not been good for pulp species. Quota limits and prices have been reduced for many loggers with Verso contracts. Many loggers are getting their delivered prices reduced, this will impact how they go forward. Some of the sales they have on the books are worth less at the mill than what they paid for at the stump.
- Aspen markets are good. Pine markets continue to be strong.
- Hardwood logs seem to be increasing in demand and price as well as anything that you can make into lumber.

Forest Inventory

- Newberry FMU forest inventory is wrapping up for the 2023 work year plan. Internal discussions regarding future treatments are occurring and participatory meetings are upcoming: Public Comment Period is 9/14/21 through 10/14/2021; Open House is scheduled for October 14th; Compartment Review is scheduled for October 26th.
- Sault Ste Marie FMU completed their pre-review meeting. Participatory meetings will start next month: Public Comment Period 8/16/2021 through 9/15/2021; Compartment Review is scheduled for October 5th.
- Shingleton FMU will hold their pre-review meeting on August 4th. Participatory meetings start at the end of August: Public Comment Period 8/31/2021 through 9/30/2021; Open House is scheduled for September 30th; Compartment Review is scheduled for October 14th.

Cultivation

- Trenching: This is to prepare for planting next year. Newberry FMU’s trenching is nearing completion. Shingleton FMU trenched approximately 200 acres so far of the 250 acres they have planned to do.
- Roller Chopping: The Sault FMU has completed their scheduled roller chopping and the chopper was transferred to the Newberry FMU. Some minor repairs are needed, chopping will begin on the Newberry FMU when repairs are complete.
- Scarification: Holli Forest Products has started on the scarification contract work for the EUP. They are currently working on sites by Paradise and will move west to sites north of Seney while the weather is conducive. The contract work should take roughly two months to complete.
- Planting: The 2021 planting season in the EUP was six days long and was completed on May 12, 2021. A total of 683 acres were planted. Planting totals were 378,450 red pine seedlings and 118,350 jack pine seedlings.

Fire

- Newberry had a fire on 7/23 near Bass Lake that burned a half-acre. Shingleton FMU had one fire, just under nine acres, that burned on both Park Service and State land. The cause of that fire is unknown.
- Newberry FMU has three prescribed burns planned for later this summer. The burns will reduce slash and new growth for trenching work in the fall.
- Michigan fire staff have been assisting MN with fire suppression needs, three MI engines were dispatched to help support their suppression efforts, two remain in MN. The Newberry unit has had four staff members sent out on two-week fire assignments. Two staff members from the Sault Unit are on assignment in Minnesota and Idaho.
- There are currently 14 staff statewide on western assignments plus 4 with the two engines in MN.

Road and Bridge

- Newberry is working on upgrades to existing stream crossing sites on the Murphy Creek and Culhane Creek. Road grading is currently occurring along certain snowmobile trails in Luce County to repair ORV damage. A washout was recently repaired on Chris Brown Lake Road. Gravel work will occur on several other roads.
- The Sault Unit is working on several road improvement projects, including one for access and along ORV route by Epoufette. The Batty Doe Lake Road bridge replacement is set to start on August 23. The bridge portion of the road is to be closed but rest of the road system will be open. Other work in progress includes two additional bridge/culvert projects for Fibron Pond and Old State Road on Hog Island Creek.
- Shingleton FMU finalized Haymeadow Creek CO project two weeks ago, and work will continue on numerous other projects.

Facilities

- Shingleton has started on improving and adding a heated stall in the Fire garage. A new insulated garage was recently installed.

Land Use

- Reviewing permit application for various state land uses, including road use.
- Shingleton FMU is working with Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and other stakeholders to help resolve land use issues at Chapel Falls involving roads and parking.

Forest Health

- Some new growth on oaks was damaged by frost in western portions of the EUP around Memorial Day resulting in a lot of brown foliage.
- The spruce budworm outbreak continues although damage reports are more limited than last year.
- There have been some isolated pockets of heavy gypsy moth defoliation reported.
- A localized redheaded pine sawfly outbreak is underway in northern Luce County.
- The annual forest health aerial survey will be completed soon and will provide extensive data on forest damage occurring this year.

Research (Continuing on the following projects)

- MTU - cedar research
- MNFI - Dwarf Lake Iris research
- CMU - research on the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program
- EGLE – wetland monitoring research
- U of M – bird research

Training

- Still experiencing some challenges implementing the new cruise protocol - specifically trying to get our timber sale preparation contractors checked.
- Staff are being trained to conduct inventory of bridges/culverts.

Staffing

- Shingleton, Newberry and Sault have filled a total of four forester vacancies. The Shingleton forester will be responsible for the GNA program on the West Zone of the Hiawatha NF.
- Currently there are Forest Technician vacancies in both Newberry and Sault.
- Kristen Matson is currently serving as Acting EUP District Supervisor, replacing Bob Burnham, who returned to Shingleton Unit Manager.

- All other EUP staff that were on temporary acting assignments have returned to their regular positions.

Other

- ED-3 Discretionary Spending Freeze has been lifted.
- Staff have been working more regularly from the office versus teleworking at home, but the field offices remain closed to the public.

Public Information: John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer (pepinj@michigan.gov)

As the march to return to work in offices begins, I am hoping for a good deal of opportunity to get out to take fresh photos of various activities taking place across all divisions in the Upper Peninsula this summer. Please send me news of any photogenic activities taking place within any division. Please remember that things that might seem like commonplace tasks, like duck banding, responding to nuisance bear complaints, construction at boating access sites or state parks, is often fascinating to the general public. These are also activities that we often have a short supply of photos in our archives. If possible, please give me a week’s notice to try to get the activity set up on my calendar and secure enough time in my schedule to get out there. Also, if you have good photos of a particular activity you would like to submit to our archives for DNR use, please send them to me, with information describing the activity taking place in the photo and identification of anyone prominently featured in the photo (see example below). My contact information is pepinj@michigan.gov or 906-250-7260. Thanks very much.

Example: Joe Smith, a Michigan Department of Natural Resources wildlife technician in Baraga, helps band mallards in the Sturgeon River Slough in Houghton County. The DNR bands thousands of ducks each year to help track their movements to aid in conservation efforts.

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

Indian Lake State Park & Palms Book State Park

- Indian Lake State Park toilet shower building replacement project is in the archaeological study phase. Awaiting the report.
- Palms Book septic field project is in wetland delineation phase and awaiting report. Design ongoing.
- Palms Book observation raft will be having the bottom layer under flotation pods removed due to sediment build up inside the pods.
- Laughing Whitefish Falls, North Country Trail bridge waiting for preliminary estimates on draft design.
- Palms Book State Park lift station is working at reduced capacity.
- Indian Lake State Park remains near full capacity.
- Palms Book remains very busy with long lines.

Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island

- Lime Island AST cleaning & Hazardous Material Assessment: Consultant has been doing field work this summer.
- Lime Island Harbor upgrade project: Phase 500, 50% Review was on July 15th.
- Brimley Toilet/Shower building replacement: Funding received for construction for this fiscal year. Project was bid out for construction; bids have been received and waiting to see if the project will be awarded for construction to start September 7th.
- DeTour Harbor/Lime having hard time filling summer staff positions
- Brimley has been losing a few summer workers already, with more going back to school in mid-August. Once again it will be a challenge to get enough staff for the tail end of the summer.
- DeTour Harbormaster retired on June 24th.
- Brimley: The campground has averaged 90% occupancy since the Fourth of July Holiday. All wknds have been full, with very few vacancies during the weekdays. The beach/day use has been very busy.
- Munuscong River/DeTour SFCG: Has been busy on the weekends.

- DeTour Harbor: Has been slow with a few transient boaters.... more than likely due to the US/Canadian border still being closed.
- Lime Island: Since opening on June 6th, Lime Island has had 69 rustic cabin nights to date compared to 59 in the same timeframe in 2019.
- Brimley State Park had an approximately 5-day power outage (June 25th- June 30th) due to an underground primary break. Power was restored at approximately 11:30pm on June 30th.
- DeTour Harbor is understaffed this summer due to having a hard time filling summer worker positions.
- Repairs are scheduled to be made to the Lime Island State dock road the first part of August. The roadway was damaged due to the recent high-water levels.
- Brimley State Park Staff have been very busy trying to keep up with keeping the park clean for our visitors.

Straits State Park

- 90% review taking place for the Mackinac Island Harbor toilet shower building.
- Working on an MOU with MDOT to complete a feasibility study for bridge over I-75 to Father Marquette
- Design has continued for Father Maquette operations.
- Toilet shower building design has resumed for Straits upper toilet shower building replacements.
- Summer staff hiring has been difficult. We are short staffed but will manage to get through the summer season barring nothing else happens.
- National Wild Turkey Federation held a bb gun fun shoot along with a turkey hunting seminar.
- Native American Tribal POW WOW has been cancelled for this year.
- Chicago to Mackinac Race and the Port Huron to Mackinac races were held this year but the slips were by individual reservations with only 1 boat per slip in the harbor.
- Campground use and passport sales remain extremely high. Little Brevort Lake has had more day use visitors than it could handle and parking is becoming an issue along with many kayaks and canoes using the boat launching area.
- Brevort Lake boating access sites has seen days of extreme use as well with the parking overflowing out onto the road and issues caused because of the gravel parking area not having defined parking areas.
- The Mackinac Bridge Walk will be an issue again this year. Some difficulty with staff getting to work in the morning and campers leaving a day early, Sunday, to avoid the morning bridge closure.
- Hiring and keeping staff continues to be an issue at both Straits and Mackinac Island Harbor.

Tahquamenon Falls State Park & Newberry Field Office

- Lower Falls Boat Concession/Island Redevelopment Project: The pedestrian bridge is slated to be installed in September 2021.
- Lower Falls Concession Store Remodel/Replacement Project: Is into 90% design. The project is starting to take shape, with the new Park Store & Bathrooms being separate buildings integrated into a plaza style complex in the generally area where the existing store is located.
- Whitefish Point Harbor Phase 1 Improvements: The project team is generally looking to make baseline improvements to the facility including upgrading the slip piers and Electrical, as well as making the entire unit ADA compliant.
- Interviews are being held this week for the vacant General Office Assistant (GOA) position.
- The Newberry Field Office will be holding interviews for the Vacant Supervisor position in the coming weeks.
- We are still extremely short handed and have been actively looking for Summer Ranger help to get us through the 2021 season.
- The Tahqua Trail run is scheduled for August 14th. The event is organized by Great Lakes Endurance LLC.
- Harvest Festival will be September 25th.
- The State Park campgrounds have been full every night since July 1st. The State Forest Campgrounds were a little slower to fill, but as of the 3rd week in July, they have been filling on a regular basis.
- Looking ahead, there is not much availability between now and Labor Day weekend.

Fayette Historic State Park

- **Townsite:** General reactionary maintenance to window sashes, doors, locks, etc. Reconstruction of retaining wall behind Charcoal Kiln site will begin soon – outside contractor.
- **Park/Harbor:** Remodel of Fishing Pier in Harbor is almost complete. Installation of small retaining wall near Toilet/Shower building is complete.



- Currently one Ranger position vacant: Interviews to be held on August 13th.
- Day Use: Tracking below 2020.
- Campground: June (previous 4-year avg) - 51% capacity. June 2021 - 70% capacity. July (previous 4-year avg) - 89% capacity. July 2021 - 97% capacity.
- Continuing to struggle with the grinder pumps, working with installer to alleviate problems.