



## Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

**Date of Production: December 2022 (information current as of 12/8/22)**

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

**Please feel free to share this list of events with everyone!! With all the amazing things happening in the U.P., let's help spread the word. 😊**

### DNR Public Meetings

For virtual or conference call meeting information, please go to the DNR website at: [www.michigan.gov/DNRMeetings](http://www.michigan.gov/DNRMeetings) and click on the appropriate meeting and/or agenda for instructions.

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| December 8  | Natural Resources Commission Meeting, 9am, Lansing (call 517-599-1067)                    |
| December 8  | Michigan Trails Advisory Council, 6pm (call 517-331-6219)                                 |
| December 10 | Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council, 10am (call 517-582-3220)                       |
| December 13 | Michigan Iron Industry Museum Advisory Board, 3pm (call 906-475-7857)                     |
| December 13 | Wildlife's UP Sportsperson Coalition, Crystal Falls, 6pm Central, Location TBD            |
| December 14 | Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, 9am (call 517-284-5954)                      |
| December 15 | Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, 6pm, Newberry                              |
| January 12  | Natural Resources Commission Meeting, 9am, Lansing (call 517-599-1067)                    |
| January 18  | <i>(Tentative)</i> Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, 6pm (call 906-226-1331) |
| February 9  | Natural Resources Commission Meeting, 9am, Lansing (call 517-599-1067)                    |

### **Upcoming opportunity to serve**

The DNR is seeking interested candidates to serve on the [Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup](#). The purpose of the workgroup is to assist the [Michigan Trails Advisory Council](#) in providing the DNR advice on the creation, development, operation and maintenance of the designated snowmobile trail system. Members will serve a four-year term and are expected to participate in four meetings a year. Complete an [online application](#) or contact [Anna Centofanti](#) at 517-331-6219 with questions or for more information.

### **DNR also seeking to fill upcoming vacancies on UP Citizens' Advisory councils**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is soliciting applications for open volunteer positions on the Eastern and Western Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Councils. The councils are designed to advise the DNR on regional programs and policies, identify areas in which the department can be more effective and responsive, and offer insight and guidance from members' own experiences and from the public. **A Dec. 15 deadline has been set to apply for membership to the councils.** Several vacancies are available.

The councils currently meet every other month, with meeting agenda items set by council members. Council recommendations are forwarded to the DNR for consideration in policy-formation and decision-making processes. "The councils are a great opportunity for members and the public to learn about, and have input into, DNR issues, programs and decisions," said John Pepin, DNR deputy public information officer. "Since their creation, the U.P. citizens' advisory councils have drafted over 100 recommendations on a wide variety of topics, the wide majority of which have been approved by the DNR."

Council members, who are required to have their **primary residence** located in the U.P.'s five eastern or 10 western counties, represent a wide variety of natural resource and recreation interest groups or the citizenry at large. Members are selected for the councils based on a variety of factors. Each council includes roughly 20 members.

Application forms and more information about the councils are available online at [Michigan.gov/UPCAC](http://Michigan.gov/UPCAC) or by calling the DNR's Marquette Customer Service Center at 906-226-1331. Completed applications may be faxed to 906-228-9441, emailed to [dahlstromk@michigan.gov](mailto:dahlstromk@michigan.gov), or mailed to DNR, Attn: CAC, 1990 U.S. 41 South, Marquette, MI 49855.

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## U.P. State Park, State-Sponsored & Other UP Activities

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

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| January 6  | Lantern-Lit Ski & Snowshoe, Blueberry Ridge Pathway (Crossroads Area)               |
| January 13 | Snowshoe Guided Hike-Advanced, Porkies Winter Sports Complex                        |
| January 14 | Snowshoe Guided Hike-Beginner, Porkies Winter Sports Complex                        |
| January 14 | Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Porkies Winter Sports Complex                               |
| January 20 | Snowshoe Guided Hike-Advanced, Porkies Winter Sports Complex                        |
| January 21 | Snowshoe Guided Hike-Beginner, Porkies Winter Sports Complex                        |
| January 21 | Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Porkies Winter Sports Complex                               |
| January 21 | Feeding Winter Birds-Virtual Class ( <a href="#">Pre-Register by Jan. 19 here</a> ) |
| February 3 | Snowshoe Guided Hike-Advanced, Porkies Winter Sports Complex                        |
| February 4 | Snowshoe Guided Hike-Beginner, Porkies Winter Sports Complex                        |
| February 4 | Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Porkies Winter Sports Complex                               |

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## Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- DNR News: History awards deadline, inland lakes online course, NRC meeting (12/3/22)
- December hunting and trapping opportunities (12/2/22)
- Winter Becoming an Outdoors-Woman outings set in the UP (12/2/22)
- Natural Resources Commission meets Dec. 8 in Lansing; agenda available (12/2/22)
- UPDATE: ORV-snowmobile trail segment remains closed in Dickinson County (12/1/22)
- Snowmobile trail section closed temporarily in Marquette County (12/1/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: Of lighthouse keepers and birdwatchers (12/1/22)
- Time to check trees for hemlock woolly adelgid (11/30/22)
- DNR News: Victorian holiday charm, Happy Little 5K, lifesaving awards (11/29/22)
- DNR staffers to answer questions live on 'Ask the DNR' (11/28/22)
- December meetings schedule; vacancy on snowmobile trails subcommittee (11/28/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: Thanksgiving a good time to reflect on wild turkey's comeback (11/23/22)
- DNR gets \$5 million grant for river, stream restoration work in 14 counties (11/22/22)
- DNR's holiday gift guide: Ideas for the outdoor adventurer on your list (11/21/22)

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## Grant Contacts

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

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

## Western UPCAC Update

The **Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council** met on December 5<sup>th</sup> in an all-virtual meeting. The following agenda items were discussed:

- Division Updates
- Mandatory Harvest Registration Season-to-Date Overview
- Gogebic County Trail 2 Status
- Wolf Management Plan Approval Process Update from November NRC Meeting
- NRC Approval of Fisheries Order 206.23 (related to WUPCAC July Cisco Chain of Lakes Resolution)

- Virtual Elk Hunt Orientation Request to NRC (by WUPCAC Dr. Smith) & Response
- Council Member Term Expirations/Renewals/Solicitation to New Applicants
- Motion to Defer Officer Selection to March 2023 Meeting
- Reports from Committee Meetings Held
- Next Meeting

More information on both the Western and Eastern CACs can be found at [www.michigan.gov/upcac](http://www.michigan.gov/upcac)

## ***November NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer***

The Natural Resources Commission met at Lansing Community College on November 10, 2022. The major actions taken:

Director Dan Eichinger approved:

- [A land use order](#) transferring administration and management of the Michigan Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee from the Michigan History Center to the Parks and Recreation Division.
- Nine land transactions. Details of these transactions can be found linked within [the NRC agenda](#).

The commission approved:

- [Fisheries Order 206.23](#), which provides for a variety of changes to regulations for warmwater species on select waters. The commission also approved [an amendment](#) to this order that was put forward by Commissioner David Cozad.
- [Regulations for spring turkey hunting](#).
- [A resolution from Commissioner Keith Creagh](#) requesting that the department bring forth an order in the next deer regulation cycle to allow certified dog trackers to use off-leash dogs in helping hunters recover wounded deer.

The commission tabled action on [Fisheries Order 210.23](#), which would remove trout stream designation from three water bodies, in order to get more information about this proposed change.

### **Governance and Policy Committee**

Amy Trotter, executive director of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, along with MUCC Board Chair Tim Muir, presented to the committee a summary of [resolutions from MUCC's 2022 convention](#). Amy also discussed ongoing and upcoming issues important to MUCC's membership.

Commission Chair Tom Baird said the commission had established a meeting schedule for the next year. Tom identified future areas of focus for the commission, which include deer regulations – the three year cycle for regulations is due for review next year – wolves and the effects of climate change.

### **Fisheries Committee**

Gary Whelan of the Fisheries Division [told the committee about research related to fish movement](#), using the Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observation System (GLATOS), a technology for following the movement of tagged fish. Through GLATOS, transmitters implanted in fish provide information on the location of the fish, water temperatures, depth, how fast the fish are moving, their diets as well as archived information. The system allows scientists to track fish across great distances. Currently there are nearly 2,000 transmitters deployed in 49 different species, providing hundreds of millions of data points on fish movement in the Great Lakes. Fisheries Division is using this data to better understand the movements of lake trout, whitefish, cisco, muskellunge, smallmouth bass and yellow perch.

### **Committee of the Whole**

Director Dan Eichinger recognized Louise Klarr for her service on the Natural Resources Commission. Louise was on the commission from December 2012 to December 2020, serving on several committees and workgroups.

Next, Louise's husband, Gunnar Klarr of the Shikar Safari Club International, presented the Shikar Safari International Wildlife Officer of the Year Award. The 2021 winner, chosen by his peers in the Law Enforcement Division, was Cpl. Mike Hearn. Cpl. Hearn has been a conservation officer for 18 years, beginning his career in Kalkaska County. In 2021, he was

promoted to recreational safety corporal for the Law Enforcement Division, overseeing snowmobile and off-road vehicle programs and other safety courses. Among other things, Cpl. Hearn was recognized for his work with marine related alcohol enforcement, his work with the agricultural community and his strong relationships with ORV and snowmobile clubs. LED Chief David Shaw recognized Cpl. Hearn's wife, Jessica, and their three children for supporting his important work protecting Michigan citizens and the state's natural resources.

Ron Olson, chief of the Parks and Recreation Division, presented lifesaving awards to eight members of his division for three different events:

- At about 3 a.m. on June 12, 2022, Park Rangers Gerard Molaison and Travis Hall were notified by Central Dispatch in Roscommon County that two individuals had capsized their kayaks on Higgins Lake, about 1,000 yards off shore. The two rangers were able to locate the individuals, pull them into their boat, check them for hypothermia and safely return them to their campsites.
- On June 16, 2022, Park Ranger Dominic Goulette and State Workers Claire Hines and Haley Spalding set out to Devoe Lake Beach in Rifle River Recreation Area to adjust swim buoys. They were alerted to an adult woman outside of the buoyed swim area who was struggling to stay afloat. Hines swam to the woman and put her in a rescue hold to swim her back to shore. Goulette and Spalding assisted them in a lifeboat. The woman said she wouldn't have survived without their help.
- On June 28, 2022, Grand Haven State Park Supervisor Andrew LundBorg, Lead Ranger Arica Johnson and Park Ranger Sarah Loughman were working at the park when red flag conditions were in effect. LundBorg and his staff were notified of multiple swimmers in distress. Most of the swimmers made it back to shore, but they saw one young man who had been swept beyond the swim buoys. LundBorg donned a life vest and grabbed a rope, then worked with Loughman and Johnson to pull the young man to safety, saving his life.

Chad Stewart of the Wildlife Division [told the commission about the 2023 revision of the Department's Elk Management Plan](#). Cody Norton of the Wildlife Division gave [a presentation on the 2022 update of the department's Wolf Management Plan](#). Both plans will be before the director for approval at next month's meeting.

Commissioners received [a report on legislation affecting the department](#) (below).

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### ***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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.michigan.gov/NRC)).

### ***November 2022 Legislative Updates – Craig Brunet, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office***

#### **HB 6354 (H-5) – Eliminates Natural Resources Commission Authority to Issue an Order Requiring a Hunter to Report the Harvest of Deer – Rep. Hoitenga**

This bill as introduced amended Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to eliminate the misdemeanor penal code violation for not reporting a deer harvest or not retaining a deer harvest confirmation number. The H-5 version removed the penalty language entirely from the introduced version. Instead, HB 6354 (H-5), as enrolled, would prohibit the Natural Resources Commission from issuing an order or interim order requiring hunters to report the harvest of deer or retain the harvest confirmation for that deer unless it is taken under a deer damage shooting permit or a disease control permit.

- The bill was passed by the House and Senate and vetoed by the Governor.

- The Administration is opposed to the H-5 version of the legislation.

### **HB 6398 and Senate Bill 1172 – Modify Definition of a Peace Officer in the Mental Health Code – Rep. Cherry and Sen. Chang**

These bills are identical bills and would amend the Mental Health Code, Act 258 of 1974, to modify the definition of a peace officer by adding an officer or agency who is licensed under the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES), Act 203 of 1965. The changes to this bill would allow an expansion of officers, including Conservation Officers, able to engage with a person requiring treatment under the Mental Health Code.

- House Bill 6398 has been referred to the House Committee on Health Policy. Senate Bill 1172 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy and Human Services.
- 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 <https://www.legislature.mi.gov>.*

## **Division Updates**

### **Wildlife Division: Kristie Sitar, Wildlife Biologist-Newberry**

- **UP Deer Camp Survey:** The Deer Camp Survey is a UP wide cooperative effort between the DNR and numerous hunters for the 16-day regular firearm season. Survey materials were sent out to over 520 camp contacts before the firearm season to be completed and returned by cooperating hunters. DNR staff will analyze the data and will produce a report in mid-winter that will be sent to participating camps. Results range from sighting rates to hunter success rates and hunter opinions. This information helps us better understand the size, trend, and composition of the deer herd and the issues that are important to hunters concerning deer management.
- **Bird Season Updates**
  - The sharp-tailed grouse season ran from October 10-31 as it has since the season was re-opened in 2010. There are over 5,000 acres of HAP parcels in the eastern UP which are open to hunting. These lands represent a small fraction of their habitat in the hunting zone. This unique hunting opportunity is only available in the eastern Upper Peninsula and hunters from other parts of the state as well as out of state take advantage of the opportunity.
  - Grouse Enhanced Management Sites (GEMS) were heavily utilized by hunters again this year and are sought after by resident and out of state hunters. Bird numbers were decent to great in most areas and hunters were reporting successful days afield across the UP. Woodcock numbers were reported to be spectacular this fall.
- **East UP Bear Season Update:** In the Upper Peninsula, bear season ran from September 7<sup>th</sup> through October 26<sup>th</sup>. Based on check station data, the number of bears registered in the eastern Upper Peninsula (Newberry and Drummond Island Bear Management Units) was 328 compared to 335 last year (a decline of ~ 2%). Preliminary data, including age and sex ratios of harvested bears and percent hunter success will be available in early December.
- **Outreach**
  - Staff in Shingleton assisted with hunter safety classes resulting in 50 new hunters!
  - Staff in Newberry are conducting the Youth in the Outdoors survey again this year to gain information on interests of youth in the local community and how the DNR can help with those interests.
- **Furbearer Seasons:** The seasons listed below require mandatory registration of the harvest by the trapper. Fur must be submitted to be sealed and a skull must be submitted which will not be returned. Skulls should be skinned prior to registration.
  - Bobcat trapping season in the UP (October 25 to December 26) opened early this year and kill tags were only available through October 24<sup>th</sup>. Trapped harvest must be registered no later than January 5, 2023.



- Bobcat hunting season in the UP is open January 1-March 1 and hunted harvest must be registered no later than March 11, 2023.
  - Fisher and Marten season is open December 2 – 11 and harvest much be registered no later than December 14, 2022.
  - Otter season in the UP is open October 25 – March 31 and harvest must be registered no later than April 10, 2023.
- **Moose Survey:** The DNR will conduct an aerial winter moose survey to estimate population size this January. The survey is highly dependent upon favorable weather conditions for completion. Results will come out later this spring.

## **Marketing & Outreach Division – Jon Spieles, Statewide Interpretive Manager**

### ▪ **Education**

- School group programming is up considerably this fall after nearly two years of schools taking fewer field trips due to Covid, although bus driver shortages continue.
- Nature at School, DNR’s virtual education platform, has opened registration for late fall/winter and nearly 50% of the open time slots have already been booked.
- Salmon in the Classroom has almost all educators returning for the “in-school” program after running it virtually for several years. There are more than 300 schools participating this year.
- Interpretive staff led 1,000 students through weirs during salmon egg take.
- Interpreters Katie Urban and Katie McGlashen led two overnight Outdoor Skill Academy backpacking clinics at the Porcupine Mountains in September. These amazing ladies coordinated everything from gear to logistics, hiking participants five miles into the wilderness learning how to safely conduct a backpacking trip.



### ▪ **Harvest Reporting**

- More than 252,000 harvest reports were completed as of Dec. 1.
- Most reports were completed through internet (211,872).
- Mobile app submissions 30,636.
- Remainder submitted through point-of-sale devices, DNR help desk and through the phone system.

### ▪ **DNR Website Metrics (Fiscal Year 2022)**

- There were 5.6 million users, with 13.43 million unique pageviews.
- Breakdown of users’ access to pages: Mobile: 72% | desktop 25% | tablet: 3%.

### ▪ **GovDelivery**

- As of October 1, there are 1.9 million subscribers. Those 1.9 million subscribers are subscribed to an average of 2.75 lists.
- 88 million of DNR emails were received by subscribers.

### ▪ **Social Media Stats**

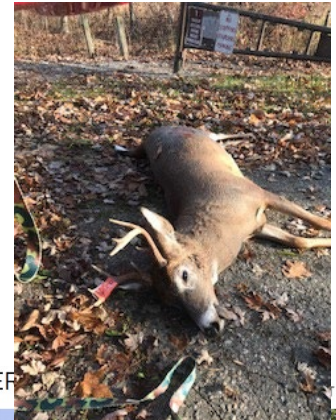
- Impressions: 120 million, up 33% from FY 2021 (how many times a person sees digital content).
- Fans/Followers: 912,000, up 48% from FY 2021 (chooses to follow / adds account to personal page).
- Engagement Rate: 0.67%, median across the industry is 0.064% (took action – like, share, follow...).

▪ **Shooting Ranges**

- Ranges reported an average pre-firearm season – extreme use 7 days/week.
- Range staff worked with Sleepy Hollow State park Staff to get the accessible archery lift from Rose Lake shooting range out in the state park for people to use during the deer seasons. Photo of successful hunter’s buck from that stand →.

▪ **License Sales**

- Implemented an internal procedure to audit the number of licenses that are reprinted by agents.
- Help Desk staff are scheduled to work the weekend of November 19-20 to provide further assistance with harvest reporting and general firearm deer season calls. YTD call center has fielded more than 20,000 calls.



**Finance & Operations: Michelle Zellar, Eastern UP**

- Recently, Director Eichinger gave his approval to move forward with a beautiful, state-of-the-art mass timber office complex in Newberry. To the right are the west and south elevation views of the new office. Groundbreaking is expected in the spring of 2023 with a tentative target completion date for the project in the spring of 2024.

DNR CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER



- The Eastern UP Office are seeing an increase in calls and visitors inquiring about deer harvest reporting and assistance in registering their deer due to no internet access or trouble with the online reporting function. Most of the interaction was positive and supportive.
- The Newberry Customer Service Center was open regular business hours, Saturday November 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, as well as Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, providing customer service from Finance and Operations Division staff.
- Due to several State of Michigan Holidays, customer service centers will be open December 27 thru December 30, 2022, and then returning to normal business hours after the new year, January 2, 2023.

**December Season Dates 2022**

- 12/1 Late Archery Deer season opens (12/1 through 1/1) – no crossbows in the Northern UP DMUs without a disability permit
- 12/1 Ruffed Grouse season re-opens (12/1 through 1/1)
- 12/1 Late pheasant hunt opens (12/1 through 1/1, see digest p. 69 for open areas)
- 12/1 Pike & Muskie Spearing season opens (see p. 16-17)
- 12/2 Muzzleloader Deer season opens (through 12/11)
- 12/2 Fisher and Marten trapping open (see Fur Digest pgs. 4 & 5 for areas)
- 12/10 Bobcat Trapping open for Units C, D, and G (closes 12/29)
- 12/10 Bobcat Trapping opens for Unit H (closes 12/20)
- 12/10 Elk Season #2 opens (through 12/18)
- 12/11 Fisher & Marten trapping close – pelts must be sealed by 12/14/22, see Fur Digest
- 12/12 Late Antlerless Firearm Deer season opens (through Jan. 1) – see p. 52 for areas
- 12/26 Bobcat Trapping closes in the UP units

- 12/31 Bass season closes (possession)
- 12/31 Muskie (possession) closes in St. Clair, Detroit, and Boundary waters
- 12/31 Last day to apply for 2023 Pure Michigan Hunt

## **Fisheries Division – Patrick Hanchin, Lake Superior Management Unit**

### **Fisheries Management Units**

- Staff recently completed fall surveys on inland trout lakes to assess stocking success and Units teamed up to conduct a large-scale trout survey on the Au Sable River in Mio.
- Staff have been working on maintenance at Fisheries-owned dams and winterizing all boats, motors, and trailers.
- Staff completed annual pesticide applicator certification.
- Staff held their annual UP field work coordination meeting to set the plan for all surveys to be conducted in Fiscal Year 2023.
- Staff reviewed all parcels slated for the Group 6 State Land Review (Alger, Schoolcraft, etc.) and participated in public meetings.
- Staff have been meeting regularly with the USFWS, GLFC, and Alger County Road Commission to design and plan for a new lamprey barrier on the Sucker River.
- Au Train Lake habitat enhancement project planning with Alger Conservation District and Upper Peninsula Resources Conservation and Development Council. Work to take place this winter.
- Fisheries Division participation in Forest Resources Division Compartment Review Meetings.
- The St. Marys River Creel survey finished up in October. We will be working to finalize the data and generate estimates of harvest and fishing pressure.
- We are working with other agencies on the St. Marys River Fisheries Task Group to get catch data entered from the 2022 fish community survey. Structures such as scales or fin rays collected from various fish species are being distributed to different agencies for ageing purposes.
- Staff conducted November lake surveys for evaluating inland Freshwater Cisco populations.
- Walleye ponds were prepped for the 2023 rearing season.
- Staff fin clipped 4,603 fall fingerling walleye (purchased by the Straits Area Sportsman’s Club) that were stocked in Brevoort Lake on October 14th and 21st.
- A winter creel survey will be conducted on Brevoort Lake (Mackinac County) during January-March, 2023. This will be a timely survey due to the recently stocked fish that were fin clipped for identification.
- With the warm fall weather, anglers enjoyed salmon fishing on Lake Superior streams and saw a bit of a later than normal spawning run of these fish. Nearshore boater fishing off river mouths was productive for Lake Trout and Salmon.

### **Northern Hatcheries**

- *Marquette State Fish Hatchery*
  - At the Marquette Hatchery, a vacant Fisheries Technician position was filled by hiring Dave Lombardi, who used to be a creel clerk out of Newberry. This brings Marquette hatchery and all three northern hatcheries back to full staffing.
  - The hatchery is finally open to the public again as of November 21. After the pandemic, it was kept closed due to safety concerns during the construction project on Cherry Creek.
  - Cherry Creek Stabilization project: The Capital Outlay project is close to substantial completion but will not be able to be finished until spring.
  - Fish culture: The Marquette State Fish Hatchery completed egg take operations for Splake, Brook Trout, and Lake Trout. All goals are being fully met.
  - Fall Brook Trout stocking was completed.
  - Arctic Grayling: The 2021 year-class arrived from Oden’s containment after passing their third health testing. This gives Marquette two year-classes, which will give us the ability to cross the two when the younger group matures, probably starting in 2024.
  - Maintenance: The brood isolation building is nearing the engineering 50% completion mark. We are not yet sure if the inadequate building will be expanded or rebuilt. This building keeps immature brood fish separated from the production fish and uses well water, further reducing disease risks.



- **Thompson State Fish Hatchery**
  - Fish culture: All goals are being met. Thompson’s muskie production hit the goal perfectly, with 28,114 muskies stocked from Thompson, averaging 9.3”. Stocking in the UP include 700 in Teal Lake, 100 in Dana Lake, and 130 in McKeever Lake.
  - Steelhead: Fry are doing well in the nursery. All goals are expected to be met.
  - Chinook salmon: Eggs are eyed and will be hatching soon.
  - Maintenance: Solar: Gearing up to replace the outer layer of the production raceways this spring. This is necessary so the solar panels will be installed on a surface that will last their lifespan. Installation will be in June 2023.
  
- **Oden State Fish Hatchery**
  - Fish Culture: All goals are being met. All young of the year brown trout and rainbow trout are doing extremely well.
  - Spawning is complete for all brown trout and advanced rainbow trout, which will be reared at Oden. Normal timing rainbow trout spawning will start right before Christmas, for eggs to supply Harrietta State Fish Hatchery.
  - Planning to switch all of Oden’s rainbows for 2024 stocking to being from photoperiod advanced adults. The pinch point for this is going to be space in the nursery in March 2023.
  - Maintenance: Solar power: The areas have been cleared for two solar array projects. One array is expected to offset energy consumption for the main hatchery by 16%. The other array is expected to offset about 75% of the energy consumption for the Isolation building and Viewing Chamber. Construction for both will happen in May 2023
  - Two Electric Vehicle charging stations are being installed at the Visitor Center.
  
- **Electronics**
  - The emergency alarm monitoring system has been successfully upgraded to Opto Epic Groov. This system uses both the 800 MHz radio system and cellular technology to alert staff to after-hour emergencies. This is important because it gives us two independent ways to alert staff and ends our reliance on outdated landlines. Our two Electronics staff members will be completing similar conversions at three more hatcheries over the next year.

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

|  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Project Name: Haywire Grade – 11 Bridges</b>              | <b>Project Name: Trail 8 – 3 Bridges</b>   | <b>Project Name: Bissel Creek Culvert</b>               | <b>Project Name: 20<sup>th</sup> Street Culvert</b>                                     |
| Description: Engineer and replace 11 bridges                 | Description: Engineer and replace 3 bridges  | Description: Engineer culvert replacement               | Description: Replace concrete culverts  |
| Trail Use: ORV/Snowmobile                                    | Trail Use: Snowmobile  | Trail Use:  | Trail Use: Multi Use  |
| Anticipated Completion: ??                                   | Anticipated Completion: 2025   | Anticipated Completion: 2022                            | Anticipated Completion: 2023  |
| Q4 Update: DTMB working to get an Engineering firm on board. | Q4 Update: Beartrap @ 90% designed, Ionia @ 50% designed. Melstrand ready to bid. Need more funding to construct all three projects. | Q4 Update: 4 bids received, project to be awarded soon. | Q4 Update: Soil borings complete, Survey done week of 9/19, 50% design mtg end of Sept. |
| <b>Project Name: Headquarters Lake Equestrian Signs</b>      | <b>Project Name: Blind Sucker Pathway Boardwalk</b>  | <b>Project Name: Millecoquins River Bridge</b>          |   |
| Description: Signs & Canada Lakes brushing                   | Description: Rebuild boardwalk   | Description: Snowmobile bridge footing replacement      |   |
| Trail Use: Equestrian  | Trail Use: Hiking  | Trail Use: Snowmobile                                   |   |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Anticipated Completion: 2022                                    | Anticipated Completion: 2022                    | Anticipated Completion: 2022                |
| Q4 Update: Working on reroute for safety with local volunteers. | Q4 Update: Waiting on funding for construction. | Q4 Update: Waiting on construction funding. |

**Forest Resources Division: Scott Lakosky, Eastern UP Supervisor**

**Timber Sales**

- Newberry FMU
  - Offered 2 sales over the past 2 months – both primarily lowland conifer sales. One bid received for one sale; the other sale received no bids. Lowland sales continue to draw very limited interest.
  - Timber sale harvesting activity has been busy for this time of year. Pine and aspen sales are in demand now. As the seasons change loggers are beginning to prep for moving into winter sales.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
  - 8 sales were offered, 6 sold and 2 went no bid.
  - Harvesting activity across the unit is low.
- Shingleton FMU
  - 4 Sales sold (3 State 1 GNA). Sales with good access and summer ground have strong bidding and interest, sales that are winter access are selling but at minimum.
  - Sale activity has picked up in all market areas.
  - FY 2022 Acres prepared was 5,639 acres (1505 was GNA)
  - FY 2022 Revenue was \$4,970,019.38 (\$1,090,501.69 was GNA)

**Forest Inventory**

- The 2024 YOE inventory cycle is completed.
- Pre-Inventory meetings for the 2025 YOE inventory cycle have been held and staff has begun field work.

**Cultivation**

- Scarification
  - Scarification work is complete for the year. Holli Forest Products scarified a total of 485 acres across the Newberry and Shingleton Units in 2022.
- Herbicide Work – all contracted.
  - A total of 744 acres of herbicide work completed in the EUP for 2022.
    - 583.8 acres done by Aerial contract
    - 160.2 acres completed by Skidder contract.
- Trenching – updated acreage
  - A total of 1268 acres of trenching completed for red pine and jack pine planted across the EUP in 2022.
    - Sault Ste Marie Unit completed roughly 173 acres across west Mackinac County.
    - Newberry Unit completed roughly 616 acres across Luce County.
    - Shingleton Unit completed 479 acres across Schoolcraft County.
  - Currently, the Newberry Unit is hoping to complete one more site, 14 acres, in early December.
- Roller Chopping – Updated Acreage: 04 acres of Roller Chopping site prep completed as of 11/30/2022
- Work is beginning on finalizing the cultivation POW for 2023 and will continue over the next month.

**Fire**

- Newberry FMU
  - Fire Officers from Newberry participated in Fire Prevention Days at both Tahquamenon Area Schools and Three Lakes Academy
  - Fire Officers from Newberry presented career information to middle and high school students.

- Fire Officers attended L-380, Advanced Fireline Leadership Class and RX-310, Prescribed Fire Effects Class; both classes were thru our Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact and had attendees from MIDNR, MNDNR, WIDNR, Manitoba MNR and Ontario MNR.
- Most equipment has been winterized for the season and staff are switching gears towards other job duties
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU: 2 staff completed RX-310 – Intro to Fire Effects done virtual through the University of Idaho
- Shingleton FMU
  - The Unit had 7 fires for the year consuming 273 acres
  - 1 Prescribed burn was completed for the year 187 acres
  - Unit staff responded to 4 Out of State Assignments this year

### **Road and Bridge**

- Newberry FMU
  - Replacement of the Murphy Creek Bridge along Murphy Creek Trail has been approved and a bid was awarded. Work will begin in the summer of 2023. The Penny Creek, Savage Creek, Linton Creek, and Otto Brandt Creek crossings were designed, and the construction was put out for bid. Those construction projects will be awarded soon with work planned to occur in 2023 as well.
  - The Pullup Lake Road was recently repaired by reshaping sections of the road that had been under water. The reshaped road was capped with 500 yards of gravel. This will improve the road for future logging activities and public access.
  - Staff continue to work on maintaining forest roads and removal of beaver issues on culverts throughout the unit.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
  - Road work bid packets for the Kinross Area (Kinross Class A and 20 Mile Rd.) are moving through the system. Additional funds are needed and have been requested. The goal is to get this road work bid out in April 2023 and completed by Fall 2023.
- Shingleton FMU
  - Stanley Lake Bridge is designed and should go out for bids in January
  - Star Rd Project – Shape, crown and spread 1900 yards of Gravel
  - Trail 8 ORV Project – Re-shape, fill holes and spread 675 yards of gravel
  - Petrel Road – Shape, crown and spread 1000 yards of gravel
  - Thompson Plains ORV – Re-shape and fill holes, placed 750 yards of gravel
  - Beaverview Rd – Prepped bridge crossing on Holland Creek and placed 200 yards of gravel
  - Replaced failed Culvert on South Stutts Rd and capped with gravel.

### **Facilities**

- Shingleton FMU
  - Wyman Fire Garage is through the design phase and headed for bids this winter.
  - Shingleton Fire Garage Roof was re-sealed with silicone, the interior is also being insulated for year-round use.
  - Replaced hot water heater at Shingleton

### **Commercial Forest**

- Starting January 1<sup>st</sup> open enrollment for the Commercial Forest Program will continue until April 1. For more information on the Commercial Forest Program go to [Michigan.gov/Commercialforest](https://Michigan.gov/Commercialforest)

### **Training**

- Newberry FMU
  - On October 2 staff attended a leadership and team building workshop conducted by Echelonfront.

### **Vacancies**

- Newberry FMU
  - The Newberry Fire Supervisor is currently being filled by an acting assignment. Solicitation to fill permanently is ongoing.

- A 3<sup>rd</sup> Fire Officer position has been approved to fill and has been solicited. Interviews will occur in the coming month or so.
- A Forester resigned recently. That position will be filled soon. Solicitation to hire a replacement is ongoing.
- Shingleton FMU
  - The Fire Officer vacancy at Seney has officially been moved to the Newberry Unit
  - Forester vacancy at Manistique has been filled with a transfer from Shingleton - creating a vacancy in Shingleton that is currently working through the process to be filled

### **Forest Health**

- FO and forester flew the unit with department airplane. Looking for large pockets of blowdown from the January 2020 ice storm.
  - The idea was to locate areas to use a dozer and masticating machine to clean up the blowdown and allow natural regeneration. This dozer and masticating head were purchased through a USFS fuels reduction grant.
  - Some areas were identified as potential treatment areas from the air, but subsequent field visits proved that there was not a need for treatment in those areas.

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

- Our LED CO Academy class graduation will be taking place on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> for the 12 recruits who have successfully completed the academy. Unfortunately, due to other priority vacancies across the state, the eastern UP will not be receiving any of the new officers in our district. Another hiring is anticipated in 2023 which will hopefully include additional officers for District 2.
- Regarding the 2023 bear season, officers are continuing their strong suggestion that, number one, the opening of the season should fall later in the month of September instead of earlier, and secondly, there should be a mandatory online course for anyone who is successful in the drawing before they can obtain a kill tag. The same as is done for successful elk applicants. The resource waste and associated problems are reoccurring events year after year, in particular with new first-time hunters. When a person must apply for nearly 10 years to get a 1<sup>st</sup> season bear tag, you have new inexperienced hunters entering this sport each season. This is a simple solution to move things in the right direction with very minimal effort or manpower.
- As fall progressed since our last meeting officers have been very busy with a large number of contacts, complaints, hunter safety classes, presentations and arrests. Many of which you will read in the Bi-weekly reports below.

### **DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 10-03-2022**

- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol in Fairbanks Township when he observed an ORV traveling down a highway at a high rate of speed. CO Butzin attempted to catch up to the ORV which was driving at erratically and at one point passed a vehicle in a no passing zone going up a hill. Eventually CO Butzin was able to make a traffic stop on the operator. The operator was cited for careless operation of an ORV and warned for operating an ORV on the highway.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** were on patrol when they received a complaint of an altercation in progress between a bear hounds men group and a group of private property landowners. The COs arrived on scene to learn some of the hounds men's dogs went onto private property of the landowners and the landowners confronted the hounds men about the dogs being on their private property. The COs explained the laws surrounding the recovery of dogs on private property and the ethics involved in doing so. The hounds' men group agreed to avoid the area of the private property landowners.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** were on patrol when they encountered a pair of small game hunters hunting. Upon checking the hunters neither hunter had purchased a base license and a citation was issued for hunting without a license.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** were on patrol when they were dispatched to a group of stranded motorists in the Hiawatha National Forest who had a 9-month-old infant with them. The COs located the stranded motorists whose vehicle was stuck in the mud. The COs guided a tow truck service to the scene who successfully recovered the stuck vehicle. The motorists were thankful for the response.
- **COs Andera Dani and Michael Evink** participated in the yearly Marquette / Alger Counties Conservation Districts Agripalooza. The event included elementary students from Marquette and Alger Counties. CO Dani and Evink were able to have a positive interaction with over 150 students.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink** patrolled State Highway M-94 for illegal ORV activity. The COs stopped a side by side operating at highway speeds on the state highway. The operator was given a warning for no ORV license and a ticket for operation on a state highway.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Mike Evink** responded to Shingleton for the recovery of a moose that was killed after being struck by a vehicle, a local towing company recovered and transported the Moose. The COs harvested organs for wildlife division examination, additionally, the COs field

dressed the Moose and CO Vinson transported the animal to a local game processor. The meat will be distributed to local food banks for dispersal to those in need.

- **COs Mike Evink and Andrea Dani** presented to fifth graders from several area schools at Agri-Palooza in Chatham, MI. The officers shared with the students what a day in the life of a Conservation Officer is like, as well as taught a short lesson on basic wilderness survival gear and tactics.
- **Sgt Mark Zitnik and CO Andrea Dani** prepared students for an upcoming Hunter Safety Field Day by providing the take home study materials, teaching the students how to use Michigan hunting digests, and allowing the students to handle training rifles and shotguns with different actions.
- **CO Brandon Maki** observed multiple duck hunters on opening day, all the hunters had the proper licensing and equipment, no violations were observed.
- **CO Brandon Maki** attended trapping school near Houghton Lake and learned about the behaviors of furbearing species and methods used by trappers.
- **Sgt Calvin Smith** responded to a young bull moose that was hit by a vehicle near Sault Ste. Marie. The moose suffered from a broken hind leg and had to be euthanized. Several hundred pounds of moose meat will be donated to local food pantries for distribution.
- **COs Mike Olesen and Todd Sumbera** patrolled Munuscong bay for the waterfowl opener. During the patrol one group was contacted that was unable to provide any personal flotation devices on their boat. The owner of the boat was cited for the violation.
- **CO Mike Olesen** patrolled northern Chippewa County when he came observed two ORV's being operated on State Highway M-123, both operators were cited for the violations.

#### **DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 10-17-2022**

- **CO Chris Lynch** assisted in instructing the divisions newest survival tactics instructors. All officers attending the training passed and are now new instructors.
- **Sgt Mark Zitnik and CO Andrea Dani**, with assistance from **Wildlife Biologist Heather Shaw**, and volunteers Al Augustyn and Norm Belko, held a Hunter Education Field Day at Superior Central High School. All the students passed the course and achieved their Hunter Safety certificate.
- **CO Michael Evink and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Ryan Cox** were on patrol in Schoolcraft County when Regional Dispatch requested for any available law enforcement to conduct a well-being check on a suspicious female walking and crawling on all fours on the roadway. She had her head on the pavement, and then crawled into a residence from the roadway. As they were the only available law enforcement in the county, officers headed that way to check on the female. Once out at the residence the female was last seen crawling into, a male approached the COs and was showing to have apparent signs of injury to his face. The male was reluctant at first to provide information but later told them that he was assaulted by his girlfriend, later identified as the female who was walking suspiciously on the road. The male claimed the female was not taking her medication and abuses alcohol and drugs. Contact was made with the female who matched the description provided by the reporting party. The female was highly intoxicated and not very cooperative with the COs. After investigating the incident further, it was determined that the female had assaulted the male and was taken into custody for domestic assault. On the way to the county jail, the female became agitated and spit in the patrol truck on multiple occasions and banged her head on the dash and needed to be restrained multiple times by COs. Once at the jail, the female continued to spit in the patrol vehicle and was assisted into the jail by Corrections Staff due to her uncooperativeness. The female was lodged on the charge of Domestic Assault and Resist and Obstruct Police.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Cole VanOosten** received a tip of 3 fisherman fishing a closed trout stream with nets. As the COs were enroute to the scene, CO Michael Evink was contacted and informed of the situation since he was the closest to the area. The COs arrived at the creek and set up surveillance on the fisherman. The fishermen were each observed netting large Chinook Salmon in the closed stream. Both fishermen were issued citations for fishing a closed trout stream, taking fish with an unlawful method, and restitution for the fish taken. Both suspects later pled guilty and each paid \$540 in fines.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a complaint of a large land use violation where a subject upgraded nearly 3 miles of road through a large portion of state land as well as private property when his permit was denied through the State of Michigan. COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink documented the area with video as well as GPS. The case has been turned over to EGLE for investigation and is still ongoing.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was patrolling state land for small game hunters when he observed a vehicle pull up and stop a short distance behind him, shuffling things around in the passenger seat. CO Sumbera contacted the individual and asked if he was grouse hunting. The driver stated that he was not but his daughter in the back seat claimed they were going deer hunting. Further investigation revealed the suspect had two rifles that were uncased and one of which was loaded. A citation was issued for transporting a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.
- **COs Todd Sumbera and Sgt Calvin Smith** were running a grouse decoy when a pickup truck pulled up and stopped. The hunter quickly exited the vehicle and grabbed a shotgun from the rear seat of the vehicle. CO Sumbera contacted the hunter as he was loading his shotgun. The hunter was not wearing any hunter's orange and was also found to have an extra shotgun that was uncased on the floor of his truck. A citation was issued for an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle and a verbal warning was given for no hunter's orange.
- **CO Mike Olesen** received a complaint of local fishing charter who had failed to provide his monthly catch reports to the State for several months. CO Olesen had given the same individual a verbal warning last year for the same violation and explained the importance of having his catch reports submitted in a timely manner. A citation was issued for failing to provide monthly catch reports this year.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** conducted an interview on a recent illegal bear bait barrel on state land. After an approximate month investigation, a suspect was determined, and a confession was obtained. A report was generated and submitted to the Luce County Prosecutors office for review.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol of the Milikokia River when he observed two fishermen actively fishing for salmon. CO VanOosten watched from a discrete location as the men attempted to foul hook salmon in the river. The men were chasing the salmon in an attempt to congregate them so that they could illegally hook them. CO VanOosten observed one man hook and land a large Chinook salmon by the tail, the other man assisted by netting the fish. Contact was made and the men eventually admitted that they were attempting to snag the salmon. Three illegally harvested Chinook Salmon were seized and donated to a local family and a report was generated for review from the Schoolcraft County Prosecutor for attempting to snag and for retaining foul hooked fish.



- **CO Cole VanOosten** received a complaint of large “Sherp” ORVs operating in and across the Lake Superior shoreline near the Two Hearted River. Pictures were obtained and several witnesses were interviewed. The investigation of illegal ORV operation and commercial operation on state land without a permit are ongoing.

#### DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 10-31-2022

- **CO Chris Lynch** received a complaint of a small deer that was possibly possessed in violation. After an investigation, CO Lynch developed a suspect and that the suspect was known to keep a crossbow in his vehicle. COs Lynch and Rob Freeborn were in the process of interviewing a witness in the case when the suspect arrived at the home of the witness. The COs contacted the suspect and began to interview him. The suspect was asked for his deer license which he produced. The suspect then admitted to shooting a small antlerless deer and never tagging it. A consent search of his vehicle turned up an uncased cocked crossbow in the back seat. The suspect received a citation for the crossbow violation, the deer investigation continues.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was on patrol when dispatch stated there was a bomb threat at the Escanaba High School. CO Lynch responded to the high school to assist with the school lockdown while the school was cleared. No threat was located.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol in Bay de Noc Township when he encountered several archery hunters. One hunter was found to not have a hunting license in possession while another was found to be operating an ORV in a closed area. A citation was given to the ORV operator and a warning was given to the other hunter for no hunting license in possession.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was patrolling US Highway 41 when he observed a large blood stain on the rear of a car in front of him. CO Maki followed the vehicle for a short distance before it turned into a residential area. CO Maki traveled a short distance away and closed a previous complaint before returning to the area where the blood stained car had pulled off. CO Maki drove by the residence and observed deer entrails laying near the end of the driveway where the same blood covered car was parked. CO Maki knocked on the front door of the residence and was met by two individuals who claimed they had shot a deer the morning prior. The individuals took CO Maki to see the deer which was inside their freezer whole. While showing CO Maki the deer in the freezer, it was discovered it had not been tagged. Another whole deer was discovered molding on the floor which was not tagged as well. CO Maki cited both individuals for failing to immediately validate and tag their deer.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Brandon Maki** were patrolling near the Seney Stretch when a report of a 2-car accident was reported a short distance away. COs arrived on scene and assisted alongside the Alger County Sheriff Department, Michigan State Police, Munising Township Fire, and Alger County EMS. COs gathered driver/vehicle information and assisted with traffic.
- **Sgt Mark Zitnik, COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** held a basic hunter education field day at Munising High School. 25 students received their hunter education certifications.
- **COs Michael Evink, Robert Freeborn and PCO Ryan Cox** conducted a Hunter Safety Field Day in Manistique. Close to 50 youth were present. PCO Cox presented to the class and maintained a station teaching the youth gun safety. All students passed the class and were presented their Hunter Safety Certificate.
- **PCO Ryan Cox and CO Michael Evink** observed a van parked next to Thompson Creek. The stream is closed, and it appeared there was a stringer next to the van. Further investigation revealed that all seven individuals had been fishing in the closed stream. One ticket was issued for fish in a closed stream and the remainder of the individuals were given warnings for the activity.
- **PCO Ryan Cox and CO Michael Evink** were conducting a patrol in an area of high grouse hunting activity. The COs stopped and spoke with an individual who was dispersed camping. PCO Cox observed a fishing pole in the Driggs River which is closed. Additionally, the individual did not have a fishing license nor a camp card. He was issued a ticket for fish without a license.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** assisted in a fatal motor vehicle accident where a kayak and roof rack came off a vehicle and struck a vehicle travelling in the opposite direction going through the windshield which resulted in the driver's death. CO Freeborn assisted on the scene and shortly after assisted in the road closure with the local fire department. The accident was handled by MSP.
- **COs Todd Sumbera and Sgt Calvin Smith** were patrolling waterfowl hunters when they checked a group of five hunters. Three of the five hunters had their limit of red heads and the group stated that they were going to pack up and call it a day. COs Sumbera and Sgt Smith stayed in the area awhile longer as they noticed three of the members continued to hunt killing multiple birds and shooting while under power. One of the hunters that had his limit of red heads was observed taking another. As the boat came to shore the COs stepped out and announced their presence. One hunter was found to be overlimit on red heads and a second hunter was in violation of shooting while under power and possessing a loaded firearm upon a motorized vessel. Citations were issued for each violation and a warning was given for failing to tag and identify waterfowl belonging to others.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** led a hunters education course for approximately 50 kids in the Newberry and Engadine areas. CO's Vinson, VanOosten and Lt Skip Hagy along with assistance from the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club conducted a field day for the students. Approximately 50 kids attended as well as approximately 20-30 adults and parents. Stations included a rifle range, shotgun range, tree stand safety, muzzleloader safety and a trapping segment. Thanks to donations from local businesses and individuals every student was able to leave with a prize including the grand prize of a Henry .22 rifle donated by Hiawatha Club member Aaron Fulton. The officers also conducted a separate hunter safety course and field day within the Newberry/Engadine Amish community.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** received a call regarding a hunter who had self-reported accidentally shooting two turkeys with one shot in Chippewa County. CO VanOosten commended the young hunter for his honesty and used the moment as a teaching moment to explain the importance of knowing your target and what's behind it as well as the proper choke to use for turkey hunting. The additional turkey was collected and donated to a local family in need of a thanksgiving dinner.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on patrol in Chippewa County when he observed a pile of trash located on state land. CO Olesen searched the trash to discover who the possible individual was who dumped it at that location. CO Olesen was then contacted by Chippewa County Dispatch regarding another pile of trash dumped alongside of a road. This dump site was also searched for evidence of ownership. CO Olesen located evidence of the owners and is currently working on contacting them for an interview regarding their trash dumped on state land.

#### DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 11-12-2022

- **CO Todd Sumbera** received a Report All Poaching (RAP) complaint of shots fired within the safety zone of a residence on Sugar Island. CO Sumbera investigated the scene and conducted interviews. It was found that two individuals both shot at a grouse on the side of the road that was well within the 450-foot safety zone of the complainant's residence. A report will be compiled and forwarded to the Chippewa County Prosecutor's Office for review.
- **COs Mike Olesen, Justin Vinson, and Sgt Calvin Smith** conducted two separate hunter safety field days that were both held in Chippewa County. Nearly 60 students received their hunter safety certificates.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and Sgt Calvin Smith** presented on the duties of a conservation officer to two separate classes at Sault Ste. Marie High School's Law Enforcement careers class. After the presentation several students expressed interest in becoming a conservation officer.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** conducted a presentation at Lake Superior State University for the Fundamentals of Natural Resources class. There were about 75 students, with approximately 20 of them interested in the job of a conservation officer. The presentation generated many students who were interested in ride-a-longs and internship opportunities.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Steven Butzin** were on patrol when they saw an ORV coming at them. While talking with the operator, it was determined that he was checking traps and was found to have several untagged traps in his possession. The COs asked the trapper to show them a few of his sets. The trapper showed the COs his coyote spot. After looking at both of his sets, it was found that those traps were also untagged. A citation was issued for the untagged traps.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol in Wells Township when a "be on the lookout" was put out over the radio, for a vehicle all over the road. CO Butzin was able to locate the vehicle which was stopped at a green traffic light. The driver was found passed out behind the wheel and highly intoxicated. The driver was non-compliant and combative. Ultimately, the driver was arrested and charged for operating while intoxicated (OWI) third offense, as well as three counts of resisting and obstructing a police officer.
- **CO Mike Evink and PCO Ryan Cox** were on patrol in Delta County when they saw a pickup truck driving in the woods, cross country in a closed area. While approaching the vehicle, the COs could see the bed of the truck was full of pine tree boughs. COs contacted the driver and told him to stop and step out of his vehicle. The driver got out and immediately notified the COs that he did have a loaded firearm in his truck. The COs observed the firearm, a 22-250 Rifle, that was also uncased in the vehicle, and it was in fact loaded. The COs asked the driver why he was driving around with a loaded firearm, and he informed them he had it for protection from coyotes. The driver was also asked if he had a permit for the boughs in his truck and he said he did not. He also admitted to cutting the boughs so he could sell them for money. The COs issued the driver a citation for operating in a closed area and for having a loaded and uncased firearm in a motor vehicle.
- **COs Mike Evink, Rob Freeborn, and PCO Ryan Cox** participated in a Hunter Safety Field Day at the Manistique Public High School. The COs were able to instruct 40 participants the importance of firearm safety, hunting laws and regulations, and the different types of firearms that are often used for hunting. Every participant passed the written test and at the end were given hunter safety certificates.
- **COs Brandon Maki, Christopher Lynch, Steve Butzin, Robert Freeborn, Andrea Dani, Sgt. Mark Zitnik,** along with Alger County Deputy King, and Michigan State Police (MSP) Trooper Kinnunen served a search warrant regarding the illegal take of a black bear. The warrant was served without incident.

#### **DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 11-28-2022**

- **CO Todd Sumbera** was on patrol during the firearm deer season when a vehicle pulled up alongside him. The driver conversed with CO Sumbera who then asked the driver if he had any firearms inside the vehicle, the driver stated he had two rifles. CO Sumbera asked the driver if he could check the rifles to ensure that they were both unloaded and fully encased and the driver consented. CO Sumbera found that both rifles were uncased. A citation was issued for transporting an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** came across a suspicious deer license purchase. CO Sumbera interviewed the individual who purchased the license and obtained a full confession of him going out hunting and harvesting a white-tailed deer before buying his license. A report has been submitted to the Prosecutor's office for taking a deer without a license.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** followed up on several permanent blinds that have been left out all year on both Federal and State land along with not having the required owner's identification permanently attached. Citations were issued for failing to have name and address permanently attached and warnings were given for hunting from an illegal ground blind.
- **COs Mike Olesen and Sgt Calvin Smith** patrolled Chippewa County on the opening day of the firearm deer season. The COs contacted a hunter who had an illegal ORV trail leading to his permanent blind that was left out all year. The individual was found to be hunting over a bait pile that was approximately 50 gallons of sugar beets and was not wearing any hunter's orange. The individual received citations for hunting over bait that was larger than two gallons and for failing to remove his permanent blind. Warnings were given for the remaining violations of ORV trespass and for not wearing hunter's orange.
- **COs Mike Olesen and Sgt Calvin Smith** followed up on several permanent deer blinds in Chippewa County. The permanent blinds have been left out all year and did not have the required owner's identification permanently attached. Citations were issued for failing to have name and address permanently attached and warnings were given for hunting from an illegal ground blind.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol of Schoolcraft County during the morning of firearm deer season when he encountered an ORV operating during the ORV quiet period. Upon further observation it was determined that the driver was not wearing a seatbelt. A traffic stop was conducted, and CO VanOosten contacted two hunters headed to the woods hunting. It was determined that neither occupant was wearing a seatbelt or helmet. CO VanOosten informed them of the Quiet period law for ORVs during firearm deer season and that they must wear seatbelts or helmets in an ORV. It was determined that both hunters were in possession of uncased firearms. One of the hunter's firearms was loaded. The hunter stated that he wasn't worried about the gun being loaded because the safety was on. After a quick hunter's education lesson as well as a refresher on Michigan law regarding transporting firearms, CO VanOosten ran files on the individuals and determined that the driver was a suspended driver with an active warrant for her arrest. The driver was advised of the warrant and both occupants received citations for the infractions. Citations included: loaded and uncased firearms in an ORV, operating an ORV on a suspended driver's license, and no seatbelt. Warnings were issued for operating an ORV between 7am and 11am during the November firearm deer season.

- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol of Schoolcraft County when he came across an ORV parked on state land. It appeared that a hunter was using the ORV to access a hunting location. CO VanOosten observed a loaded and uncased handgun on the front seat of the side-by side with nobody around. CO VanOosten waited a short distance away for the hunter to return from his day of hunter. After several hours, contact with the hunter was made as he drove back to his hunting camp. It was determined that the hunter had a suspended driver's license and did not have a valid concealed pistol license (CPL). The hunter stated that the pistol had fallen out of his pocket when he had gone hunting that morning which is why it was on the seat of the ORV while he was out hunting. Citations were issued for loaded and uncased firearm and operating on a suspended driver's license.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** were on patrol of Luce County when they encountered a subject who was headed out hunting. The hunter had driven an unregistered jeep with no insurance. Contact was made at the vehicle, and it was determined that the hunter did not have his deer tags on him and was hunting with an Ak-47 rifle with a 30-round magazine which was loaded and uncased in the back of the vehicle. The COs detected an odor of intoxicants on the hunter who stated that he had probably drank a little too much to be hunting that day. An open intoxicant was also witnessed inside the vehicle. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the hunter was concealing a handgun in his hunting jacket. A file check determined that the man had a suspended driver's license as well as no concealed pistol license (CPL). The firearms involved were seized and the suspect was arrested and lodged in the Luce County Jail. A report was generated requesting charges against the man for numerous charges.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol of Luce County when he observed fresh tracks leading to an illegal ground blind on state land. Do to the fact it was prime hunting hours, CO VanOosten elected to wait for the hunter to finish hunting before contacting him. Shortly after shooting hours ended, CO VanOosten contacted the hunter as he drove out of his hunting spot in his vehicle. Upon contact it was determined that the man was in possession of an uncased rifle. A citation was issued to the man for transporting an uncased firearm and the man was advised to remove the blind at the end of the hunting season.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** were on patrol of Mackinac County when they encountered a permanent blind on state land. As they looked at the blind it appeared to be vacant as no vehicle was around and nobody was observed in the blind from a distance. As they approached and illuminated the blind with their light, they observed a man attempting to hide in the blind. Upon contact, the man was not wearing hunters' orange and did not have a hunting license on his person. The hunter admitted that he had already shot a buck and was continuing to hunt to fill his wife's tag. Citations were issued to the man for no hunter's orange, hunt deer with no license, and no name on blind. After issuing the citations and clearing the area, the COs contacted the hunter's family member who was headed to pick the man up from his hunting location. After questioning the family member, it was determined that the hunter from the blind had not shot the spike horn that he had admitted to but instead another family member had shot it without a valid hunting license to do so. The hunter who initially stated he shot the deer used his tag on the deer because he possessed a single deer tag that could be used for the spike. The hunter who shot the deer possessed a combo tag which was only valid for a deer with 3 or more points on one side. An Officer was sent to the suspect's residence downstate where the buck had been transported. The hunter who had shot the deer with his combo license admitted that it was the only buck they had on camera, so he decided to shoot it and put the other hunter's single deer tag on it. A report was generated requesting charges for taking a deer without a license and loaning and borrowing a deer tag.
- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint in Garden Township of an individual that trespassed on farmlands of another and shot a whitetail buck. CO Butzin responded to the location and discovered fresh tire tracks, blood, and deer hair. The identity of suspect was known by the caller. CO's Butzin and Rob Freeborn went to the suspects residence and located a dead 8-point whitetail buck. The subject admitted to taking the deer on the property in question. The buck and firearm were seized as evidence and a report is being submitted to the Delta County Court requesting charges.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Steven Butzin** received a complaint of a possible illegal deer hanging at a residence. Upon arrival, the deer in question was in an outbuilding. After interviewing several family members, it was determined that an additional illegal deer was in the same outbuilding. Several citations were issued including, hunting without a license, and 2 counts of failing to validate a kill tag. The deer and firearms were seized. Both deer were given to needy families in the local area.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** was on patrol when he observed a hunter without a helmet on an ORV. A citation was issued for the violation.
- On opening day of firearm deer season, **Sgt Mark Zitnik and CO Brandon Maki** contacted a hunter who was about to walk into his deer blind. CO Maki had been to the same spot back in August and observed an illegal ORV trail. Upon speaking with the hunter, he stated that he had operated his ORV behind the berm. The individual was subsequently cited with a civil infraction for operating an ORV in a closed area.
- On opening day of firearm deer season, **Sgt Mark Zitnik and CO Brandon Maki** observed an individual operating a four-wheeler without wearing a helmet. COs stepped out and contacted a father and son who were trading shifts in their blind. It was discovered the four-wheeler did not have a valid ORV license. The father was given a warning for failing to license his ORV and a civil infraction citation for failing to wear a helmet.
- As opening day of Michigan's firearm deer season had come to an end, **CO Brandon Maki** was about to call out of service when he was advised of a wolf with a mortality signal. CO Maki met **CO Andrea Dani** a short time later. COs arrived on scene and were able to find a dead gunshot wolf that was placed in a garbage bag underneath a pine tree. COs observed fresh four-wheeler tracks and boot prints leading to where the wolf was dumped. COs seized the wolf and followed the four-wheeler tracks to the nearby road. COs Dani and Maki went to where the tracks led to the camp and contacted the occupants at approximately 1 AM. COs were greeted by an individual of the camp and after questioning he admitted to shooting the wolf. Subsequently the individual's firearm was seized. COs Dani and Maki returned to the same camp a few days later for a follow up interview when it was discovered that the individual was also deer hunting without a license. A report is being submitted to the Alger County Prosecutors Office for review.
- Prior to firearm season, **CO Brandon Maki** walked into a deer blind and discovered it had no name, address, or driver's license information. While at the blind CO Maki observed a large amount of bait a short distance away. CO Maki discovered an large amount of corn, sugar beets, and minerals, that were grossly over the 2-gallon limit of bait. CO Maki walked into the blind on November 18<sup>th</sup> and contacted the hunter who was in the blind. CO Maki issued a citation for the over limit of bait and gave a warning for failing to place name and address information on the deer blind.

- Prior to the firearm deer season, **CO Andrea Dani** located a tree stand with no identifying information near a very large pile of bait. CO Dani subsequently contacted the responsible hunter and discovered that he had been cited for baiting over the legal limit in the past and left his hunting license in his vehicle. Enforcement action was taken regarding the over-limit of bait.
- **CO Andrea Dani** observed a permanent blind on Hiawatha National Forest property with an over-limit of bait. CO Dani observed the hunters did not leave the blind until well after legal shooting hours. Upon contact, CO Dani observed the rifle was still fully loaded. Each hunter stated they had shot a deer during archery season and still had the remaining portion of their kill tags. CO Dani also found that neither hunter had taken hunter safety. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Andrea Dani** received a self-reported complaint of a hunter unable to register his deer online. The antlerless deer was shot on Nov. 14th. The hunter attempted to register the deer with his antlerless hunter access permit, which was not fully validated. The hunter did not purchase the required universal antlerless deer kill tag to accompany the antlerless hunter access permit. CO Dani also observed an over limit of bait at the hunters blind. Both education and enforcement measures were taken.
- **CO Andrea Dani** observed a subject on a Coleman motorbike on M-67, operating on the wrong side of the road. The bike was not equipped with a brake light, and the operator was not wearing a helmet. CO Dani noted she has given the subject warnings for the same violations in the past. Enforcement action was taken this time.
- **PCO Ryan Cox and CO Michael Evink** were able to participate in a “bait flight” in the central Upper Peninsula. The pilot flew the area of interest and areas where unsubstantiated complaints had been received. Approximately 30+ heavy baits were observed and turned over to county specific COs.
- **PCO Ryan Cox and CO Michael Evink** contacted a blind on private property with an over limit of bait that was spotted from the plane. Once contact was made the hunter and his young grandson admitted to bait that included a 50 lb bag of corn, 50 lb bag of carrots, close to 10 gallons of sugar beets and a mineral block. Additionally, the elder hunter did not have hunter orange on in the blind. The hunters were understanding as they were from downstate where no bait is legal.
- **PCO Ryan Cox and CO Michael Evink** walked to a plane over bait location on the second day of deer season. The COs walked to three blind / bait locations around mid-morning. Unfortunately, no one was hunting any of them. As the COs walked back to their truck they made contact with a hunter on adjacent property. Everything checked out and shared that his uncle was hunting another blind on the property. He pointed in the direction of a waypoint the COs had from the bait flight. The COs made their way to the waypoint. PCO Cox contacted the hunter who was not wearing any hunter’s orange. He also had a very large bait pile consisting of over five gallons of corn, many pumpkins, a small trailer of sugar beets and a round bale of alfalfa. He was given a ticket for the over bait, and a warning for the hunter’s orange.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** checked several hunters on state land from the same camp on the opener of the firearm deer season. Violations encountered during the checks included possessing loaded firearms upon a motor vehicle, possess uncased firearms upon a motor vehicle, operate ORVs in closed area, fail to license ORVs, fail to wear helmets while operating ORV, riding double on ORVs not designed for, no name address on blind, exceed two gallons of bait. A total of 8 citations were issued and dozens of warnings were issued to the group for the violations.

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

### **Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island**

- Lime Island AST cleaning & Hazardous Material Assessment: Received a breakdown of cost estimates from contractor in September and waiting for funding to complete.
- Lime Island Harbor upgrade project: The new docking system has been installed and approximately ¾ of the rubble mound breakwall. Weather has played a factor in completion of this project
- Brimley utility improvement (waterline/storm water replacement) design kick-off/site walk was held on September 16.
- Brimley Restroom/Shower BLDG project: Extension of the Natural Gas line to the 3 buildings is almost complete. The directional boring is complete, with only connecting the fittings left to do.
- All state worker positions were done as of October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- There are Seasonal Ranger Vacancies at Brimley (1) & DeTour/Lime (1) that we will be attempting to fill late winter/early spring.
- Brimley: The campground water system was shut down/winterized in mid-October. There were a handful of camps after that.
- DeTour State Harbor has the fuel and water system shut down for the season.
- Lime Island Recreation Area is currently closed for the season.
- DeTour SFCG had a few camps during the Fall timeframe.
- Munuscong SFCG stayed busy this Fall with duck hunters and a few deer hunters
- The Brimley State Park headquarters area had a waterline break that was repaired.
- Brimley & DeTour rangers have been busy doing infrastructure and equipment maintenance.
- Park staff have also been submitting requests for Spring/Summer small project funding, along with statewide equipment funding requests

- Brimley rangers have been completing trail work (brush hogging & trimming) at Algonquin Pathway, getting ready for ski grooming operations.
- DeTour rangers made repairs to the ice suppression system at the Harbor.

#### **Indian Lake State Park & Palms Book State Park**

- Construction of the first drain field near Sawmill Road is scheduled to be tested by early December.
- Construction of the second drain field at the north end of the toilet building has laterals in and are covering with stone. Hoping to have both fields available for testing in early December.
- Seul Choix Keepers dwelling had soffit and roof repairs done to a leaking valley on the Southeast side of the structure.
- Waiting on updates for Indian Lake Toilet building replacement project.
- Seasonal Rangers are now on seasonal layoff
- Two seasonal Rangers completed their operations academy training in October.
- Sullivan Creek NFH stocked 75 Lake Trout weighing approximately 10 pounds each into the Big Spring.
- Winterization of all seasonal systems has occurred, and removal of skid piers is complete.

#### **Tahquamenon Falls State Park**

- Lower Falls Concession Store Remodel/Replacement Project: The contractor, (Olsen & Olsen) was able to perform some exterior concrete work including new public seating walls and a new entrance pillar at the beginning of the main walkway from the parking lot. Future concrete and paving work are on hold and will start back up again in the spring. Interior work performed in the bathroom building and park store included electrical, plumbing and floor polishing.
- Lower Falls Boat Concession/Island Redevelopment project: Olsen & Olsen has completed all major work projects. A few smaller erosion areas will be addressed in the spring.
- Whitefish Point State Harbor Phase 1 Improvements: This project is in design with the project team looking at baseline improvements that allow the site to meet ADA guidelines and allow for the new docks to be adjustable as lake levels change. We are hopeful that construction funding will be available in FY23.
- ARPA Projects: In the process of hiring a professional services consultant to help facilitate the design/construction of several TFSP projects.
- Theresa Neal was promoted to acting Interpretive Manager of MOD on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- ExploreUS was awarded the contract for the Lower Falls Concession Store and Boat rental facilities
- The water supply to all modern campgrounds has been turned off and Park Rangers have winterized all the seasonal buildings. Prep work on equipment and grounds for winter operations has begun.

#### **Straits State Park & Mackinac Island State Harbor**

- Straits upper toilet shower buildings remain under construction through winter and into spring.
- Mackinac Island toilet shower building under construction through winter into next spring.
- Father Marquette preliminary designs nears phase 500.
- Straits currently has a vacant ranger position, and this position will be filled as a permanent intermittent ranger.
- No events planned at this time for winter.
- Attendance was very strong this fall despite having half campground closed.
- There are many walkers using the park daily.
- Mackinac Island harbor and Straits State Park upper campground will remain closed through June or until our projects can be substantially completed.

#### **Muskallonge Lake State Park**

- Two new vault toilets have been installed at Lake Superior State Forest Campground.
- Bids have been reviewed and a recommendation submitted to hire a project consultant for ARPA projects scheduled at Muskallonge Lake. Projects include:
  - Replacement of the West campground toilet/shower building.



- Upgrades to the campground sewer/sanitary system and wastewater lagoon.
- Paving of the campground roads.
- Universal access to Lake Superior from the Overlook Day-use parking area.
- Muskallonge currently has a seasonal Ranger vacancy. We are targeting the position to be posted in January and filled by the end of February.
- Upcoming – Muskallonge Lake will be the host site for the start and finish of the Tahquamenon Country Sled Dog Race on January 7-8, 2023.
- Muskallonge Lake campground finished the season with attendance slightly above the 5-year average. The Lake Superior overlook day use was above average in attendance with visitors hunting for agates and yooperlites.
- State forest campground use was average with Lake Superior and Blind Sucker 2 with the highest attendance.

**Newberry Field Office**

- Milakokia Lake BAS Improvements: Design has been completed, funding has been secured for the project, and getting prepped for bidding on the project.
- The crew replaced vault toilets at The Mouth of the Two-Hearted Day use area and South Manistique State Forest Campground.
- The crew replaced 2 vault toilets at Lake Superior State Forest Campground.
- Currently working on purchasing a new backhoe for the unit.
- New Unit Supervisor Troy Sumbera started in his new position on 10-03-2022.