



Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: February 2022

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

December UP Field Deputy Update – Stacy Haughey

Governor Whitmer Makes Appointments to Boards and Commissions

January 7, 2022

LANSING, Mich. — Today, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced the following appointments to the **Natural Resources Commission**, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, and the Michigan Craft Beverage Council.

Natural Resources Commission

M. David Anthony, of Bark River, is currently retired after owning and operating the Northern Sun Winery and serving as the director of community development and government affairs for the Hannahville Indian Community and as a State Representative for the 108th House District. He holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Political Science and History from Northern Michigan University. Mr. Anthony is appointed to represent Democrats for a term commencing January 7, 2022 and expiring December 31, 2025. He succeeds JR Richardson whose term expired December 31, 2021.

Additional Note from Stacy: Dave Anthony served on the DNR's Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council from January 2011 through July 2018. He represented his employer at the time, Hannahville Indian Community, on the council.

Leslie Love, of Detroit, is the group director of ES and Sustainability for the Piston Group and a former State Representative for the 10th House District. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Siena Heights University and Master of Fine Arts from Wayne State University. Ms. Love is appointed to represent Democrats for a term commencing January 7, 2022 and expiring December 31, 2023. She succeeds the late Michael Lashbrook.

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) has exclusive authority to regulate the taking of game and sportfish and is authorized to designate game species and authorize the establishment of the first open season for animals through the issuance of orders.

These appointments are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

Hiring seasonal park positions for spring, summer and fall

Whether you want to spend more time in some of Michigan's most beautiful destinations, keep busy in retirement or lay the foundation for a career in natural resources, one of hundreds of positions as a seasonal park worker or ranger with the DNR Parks and Recreation Division may be right for you.

There are approximately 1,300 seasonal park worker positions available in state parks, state forest campgrounds, boating access sites and harbors. These frontline staff help answer visitor questions, register campers, clean park buildings, mow grass, maintain trails and more. The positions start at an hourly rate of \$10.20 or \$11 (depending on region) and offer flexible scheduling (up to 1,040 hours between April and October) and may qualify for academic or internship credit.

More than 50 seasonal park rangers also will be hired throughout the state. A park ranger helps carry out day-to-day operations and maintenance and other essential duties. Positions are paid between \$18.29 and \$25.70 an hour and receive state employment benefits. To apply, visit Michigan.gov/DNRJobs:

- **Seasonal park worker positions:** Should be 18 or older and have a high school diploma or equivalent. Provide your name, email, phone number and desired work location(s) on the interest form. Applying should take less than five minutes. Interested applicants also can text “Hire” to 80888 and receive a link to the interest form.
- **Seasonal park ranger positions:** Must be 18 or older and have a high school diploma or equivalent. Complete a State of Michigan employment application.

“If you love Michigan’s great outdoors and are looking for a seasonal position with flexible hours, come work where you like to spend time the most,” said Michael Desnoyer, administrative services chief for the DNR Parks and Recreation Division. "These positions are also ideal for college students, teachers and retirees." Learn more about these and other openings at Michigan.gov/DNRJobs. Questions? Contact [Michael Desnoyer](mailto:Michael.Desnoyer@Michigan.gov) at 517-242-2194



Upcoming Wolf Management Advisory Council Meetings

Date	Time	Location
Jan. 18, 2022	Work Session: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Quality Inn & Suites 2603 N. Lincoln Rd. Escanaba, 49829 906-789-1200
Jan. 19, 2022	Meeting: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	
Feb. 22, 2022	Work Session: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Treetops Resort 3962 Wilkinson Road Gaylord, MI 49735 866-348-5249
Feb. 23, 2022	Meeting: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	
Mar. 15, 2022	Work Session: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Kewadin Casino 2186 Shunk Rd. Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783 989-539-2346
Mar. 16, 2022	Meeting: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	
Apr. 7, 2022	9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center 104 Conservation Drive Roscommon MI 48653 989-821-6200
May 17, 2022	9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Marquette Township Community Center 1000 Commerce Drive Marquette, MI 49855

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 and click on the appropriate meeting and/or agenda for instructions.

- February 15 Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens’ Advisory Council, 6pm, Virtual (email dahlstromk@michigan.gov)
- February 16 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, 9am (call 517-284-5954)
- February 18 Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council, 8:30am (call 517-284-5876)
- February 21 **State Offices Closed – President’s Day**

February 22	Accessibility Advisory Council, 9am (call 517-284-5946)
February 22	Coldwater Resources Steering Committee, 1pm (call 906-235-6191)
February 22	Wolf Management Advisory Committee-Work Session, 1pm (call 517-599-1067)
February 23	Wolf Management Advisory Committee-Meeting, 9am (call 517-599-1067)
February 23	Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup, 5pm (call 517-331-3790)
February 25	Michigan Wildlife Council, 10:30am (call 517-284-6056)
March 10	Natural Resources Commission Meeting (call 517-599-1067)
March 15	Wolf Management Advisory Committee-Work Session, 1pm, Kewadin-Sault Ste. Marie
March 16	Wolf Management Advisory Committee-Meeting, 9am, Kewadin-Sault Ste. Marie (call 517-599-1067)
March 22	Western Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Council, 6pm, in Baraga

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

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

February 18	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Advanced Snowshoe Hike
February 18–20	UP 200 Sled Dog Weekend
February 19–20	FREE FISHING WEEKEND
February 19	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Beginner Snowshoe Hike
February 19	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Lantern-Lit Trail ((snowshoers, hikers and cross-country skiers)
February 19	Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Guided Snowshoe Hike & Lantern-Lit Snowshoe Trail
February 25	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Advanced Snowshoe Hike
February 26	Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Guided Snowshoe Hike & Lantern-Lit Snowshoe Trail
February 26	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Beginner Snowshoe Hike
February 26	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Lantern-Lit Trail ((snowshoers, hikers and cross-country skiers)
March 11–13	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Ice Fishing on Lake Gogebic

Other Good Information to Know

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- Showcasing the DNR: Bridging the gap (2/3/22)
- February 2022 hunting and trapping opportunities (2/3/22)
- Natural Resources Commission meets Feb. 10; agenda posted online (2/2/22)
- Wildlife jobs, Wildtalk podcast, Kirtland's warbler license plate (2/1/22)
- Consumers Energy Foundation awards \$70,000 for Arctic grayling effort (2/1/22)
- DNR offers Beyond Becoming an Outdoors-Woman winter events (1/31/22)
- Becoming a Michigan conservation officer: Working toward 2022 recruit schools (1/28/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: Michigan's Commercial Forest Program has numerous benefits (1/27/22)
- Wildlife Habitat Grant application period now open (1/27/22)
- Winter owls, CO recruiting, small game hunting, Happy Little Trees & more (1/25/22)
- DNR cancels this winter's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman weekend program in the Upper Peninsula (1/24/22)
- DNR February meetings, plus state land review meetings Jan. 26, 27 (1/24/22)
- Recreation grants workshop held virtually Feb. 1 (1/24/22)
- DNR announces \$100,000 available for UP Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership grants (1/21/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: We are not just wardens (1/20/22)
- DNR finalizes walleye management plan for inland waters (1/20/22)

- Michigan–Maine–Finland forestry webinars begin Jan. 27 (1/20/22)
- Learn more about invasive species in 2022 by joining webinar series (1/19/22)
- Virtual public meetings Jan. 26–27 on state land review plans (1/18/22)

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	Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov
Recreation Passport Grant	Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov
Aquatic Habitat Grant	Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, parkerk4@michigan.gov
Michigan Invasive Species Grant	Kammy Frayre, 517-284-5970, frayrek1@michigan.gov
Wildlife Habitat Grant	Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, parkerk4@michigan.gov
U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant	Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, scullonh@michigan.gov

Western UPCAC Update

The **Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council** met on January 20 virtually at the Council's discretion. The following agenda items were discussed:

- Division updates by DNR Staff
- Annual Election of Officers: Jim Lorensen-Chair and Warren Suchovsky-Vice Chair were re-elected for another one year term.
- Wolf Management Advisory Council Meeting Update by Stacy Haughey
- Solar Projects on State Land Update by Scott Whitcomb, Director of Office of Public Lands
- Deer Season Recap & Wildlife Disease Updates by Heather Shaw, Wildlife Biologist
- State Park & State Harbor 2021 Survey Results by Doug Rich
- Council Consideration of Resolution Opposing Superior Solar Project in Sands Township by Council Member George Lindquist. The resolution passed by majority vote.
- Reports from Committee Meetings: A DNR response to the Council's November resolution regarding leftover turkey tags was reviewed.
- The next WUPCAC meeting will be held on March 22 in Baraga.

The next WUPCAC meeting will be held in person (tentatively) on March 22, 2022 in Baraga (location TBD). More information on both the Western and Eastern CACs can be found at www.michigan.gov/upcac.

January NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met January 13, 2022 at the Michigan Library and Historical Center in Lansing. Director Eichinger approved:

- A Jan. 18 oil and gas lease auction on state-managed public land. Some 17,400 acres are nominated for auction across 11 counties.
- State land review recommendations for Alcona, Calhoun, Emmet, Houghton, Keweenaw, Mackinac, Macomb, Mason, Oceana, and St. Clair counties. The review of state-managed public lands in these counties was part of the revision of the state's Managed Public Land Strategy, aimed in part at identifying parcels of land 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. The review is being conducted 10 counties at a time. This is the third group of counties reviewed.

- Three land transactions. Details of those transactions can be found [linked in the NRC agenda](#).

Committee of the Whole, Director's Report

Conservation Officer Jeff Ginn of Newaygo County was recognized for receiving the 2020 American Legion Department Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award – presented belatedly because of COVID concerns. He is the first Michigan CO to be selected by the Michigan American Legion for this honor. CO Ginn was chosen from more than 18,000 law enforcement officers in Michigan. Since he started his career in 2006, CO Ginn has saved five people's lives. In 2019, CNN featured CO Ginn on the series called, "Beyond the Call of Duty," referring to him as "heroic." CO Ginn is invested in supporting his community. He created a lifejacket program that he implements during patrols on the Muskegon River. Officer Ginn has solicited lifejacket donations from several businesses in his community. He loans the lifejackets to individuals he contacts on the river who do not have a lifejacket, educates the individuals about the importance of lifejackets and instructs them where they can return the lifejacket at the end of their day. This will be the seventh season that CO Ginn will implement the program. He hasn't lost a lifejacket yet.

Wildlife Chief Jared Duquette [provided an update](#) on regulation cycles for specific species, including furbearers, migratory game birds, elk, fall turkey, spring turkey, deer as well as the timeline for wildlife rehabilitation permits. He also discussed the update of the state's wolf management plan, which should be completed by the end of June 2022. The Bear Management Plan update should be completed by mid-spring 2022. He reviewed the deadlines for printed digests. Pure Michigan Hunt winners and the Wildlife Annual Report will be reported to the commission in February. The bear trend population analysis will be completed in March. Reports on bovine tuberculosis and chronic wasting disease in deer will be presented in April.

Mark Monroe of the Forest Resources Division [gave a presentation on the department's forest road inventory process](#). Public Act 288 of 2016 requires the department to inventory forest roads by region and requires the department to post maps of state forest roads and the miles of those roads open to motorized use. Each year the department reviews a portion of these forest roads to make sure our maps are up to date. The Upper Peninsula has 5,594 miles of forest roads, with 5,498 open to motorized use. The Northern Lower Peninsula has 7,317 total miles, with 6,205 open to motorized use. The Southern Lower Peninsula has 371 total miles, with 9 miles open to motorized use.

Chad Stewart of the Wildlife Division [presented an overview of the 2021 Elk season](#). Harvest data can be found in the linked presentation. Included in the data Chad presented was a five-year average hunter success rate. The five-year average success rate was 75 percent in the early season and 87 percent in the late season. The department will be conducting an elk herd survey this year. The last elk survey, in 2019, estimated a herd of 1,196 elk, plus or minus 266 animals.

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).

January 2022 Legislative Updates – Craig Brunet, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

HB 4035 – Provide for Lake Level Assessment Fee Reimbursement Under Certain Circumstances – Rep.

VanSingel: The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to specify that PILT paid by

the Department of Treasury to each county for Department-managed swamp and tax reverted lands is to be in lieu of all special assessments levied against these state lands under existing law, in addition to all other taxes.

- The bill was passed by the House and reported with recommendation by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. The bill is awaiting a vote on the Senate floor.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HB 4149 (H-1) – Modify Certain Penalties for Certain Fishing Violations – Rep. Damoose: The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to modify the following fishing violations to a civil infraction with a fine of not more than \$150.00: fails to attach the individual's name and address to tip-ups in violation of section 48703(2); or fishes with more than the authorized number of lines in violation of section 48703(1).

- The bill was passed by the House and reported with recommendation by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. The bill is awaiting a vote on the Senate floor.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4151 – Modify Penalties for Certain Hunting and Fishing Licensing Violations – Rep. S. Johnson: The bill would decriminalize failure to carry your hunting or fishing license to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00.

- The bill was passed by the House and reported with recommendation by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. The bill is awaiting a vote on the Senate floor.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4152 (S-2) – Modify Penalties for Violations of Certain Hunting Provisions – Rep. Howell: The bill would decriminalize the following hunting and fishing provisions from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine up to \$150.00: failure to attach individual's name, driver license number, or sportcard number to a ground blind; failure to attach individual's name, driver license number, or sportcard number to a tree stand, scaffold, or raised platform; supplemental feeding of deer; failure to attach individual's name, driver license number, or sportcard number to an ice shack or shanty; first offense for fishing without a license; first offense for possession of a weapon without a hunting license in area frequented by wild animals; first offense for noise level violations of marine safety; first offense for improper attachment of registration number and decal to a snowmobile; and first offense for failure to notify the Secretary of State for a snowmobile being sold, destroyed or having a change of address.

- The bill was passed by the House and reported with recommendation as amended by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. The bill is awaiting a vote on the Senate floor.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4242 – Allow Export of Live Minnows, Wigglers or Crayfish as Bait – Rep. Alexander: This bill would allow for the export of live minnow, wigglers, or crayfish as bait.

- The bill was passed by the House and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources who held a hearing on the legislation.
- 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 reported with recommendation by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. The bill is awaiting a vote on the Senate floor.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HBs 5358-5360 – Provide Regulations for Commercial Hunting and Sport Fishing Guides – Reps. Howell, Cherry and Martin: These bills would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, to provide for the licensure and regulation of commercial hunting and sport fishing guides and to provide the Natural Resources Commission with the exclusive authority to regulate hunting and fishing guides.

- The bills have been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and two hearings have been held.
- The Administration is in support of 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 reported with recommendation by the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation. The bill is awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration is neutral on the S-2 version of 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

Parks & Recreation Division-Eastern UP Trails: Ron Yesney-UP Trails Coordinator

Rail-Trail Projects

- Putting together a project list for 2022
- Researching ownership on key RR grades

Snowmobile Trail Updates

- Snowmobile clubs are busy grooming and signing. Traffic has been steady
- Alger SORVA has had several equipment breakdowns and their trails have not been consistently groomed
- The Straits Area Snowmobile Club has been reorganized. It is being run out of Trout Lake by some new volunteers
- Segments of Trail 2 are closed due to water and unsafe conditions
- The second round of snowmobile trail inspections were completed February 1st.
- Millecoquins River Bridge is being in the 90% phase of engineering, planning for bidding out next season construction.

ORV Trail Updates

- Grant sponsors are starting to get their executed 2022 maintenance grants.
- Finishing up a few projects for the year
- The USFS has approved a few new routes. We will work toward formal designation

Equestrian Trail Projects

- Stanley lake proposal has been received. We are reviewing now.
- Headquarters Lake Trail signs have been received and ready to put up.

Pathway Projects

- Paradise Pathway Signs have been received and ready to be put up.
- Peek A Boo hill pathway project is under review. This is in Cedarville.

Event/Use Permits

- The Jackpine Vintage Snowmobile Ride has been permitted and is set to kick off on February 12th

General

- Statewide trails plan is complete. Copies available upon request
- Interviews for EUP Trails Specialist will begin in March.

Forest Resources Division: Kristen Matson, Acting Eastern UP Supervisor

Timber Sales

- Timber sale harvesting activity has been average for this time of year. Currently Newberry has 6 active timber sales, the Sault has 8 and Shingleton reports a normal about of sales being harvested. For the most part loggers have moved into winter ground that requires frozen conditions to harvest.
- There were 3 bid openings in the EUP which accounted for 10 sales being advertised. One bid opening occurred in the Shingleton unit where 3 sales were advertised. All sales had several and were sold. Another bid opening

occurred in the Soo unit where 3 sales were advertised, 2 of which sold with one going no bid which was picked up off the shelf. Newberry also had a bid opening where 4 sales were advertised, 3 of the sales sold and one went no bid.

- There are currently 5 prospectuses advertised in the EUP containing 12 timber sales.
- During the winter season timber sale preparation activity slows and shifts to work on treatments where sale layout and cruising can be completed in the winter.

Forest Inventory

- Field work for compartment in the 2024 are well underway across the EUP.
- Over the next couple of months staff will participate in meetings concerning the desired future condition of the forest, which will help inform the new State Forest Management Plan and the modeling effort that is underway. Public input will occur at a later date.

Cultivation

- In January staff finalized the 2023 seedling order, which included 326,704 red pine seedlings to be planted on 880 acres across the EUP and 328,312 jack pine seedlings to be planted on 367 acres mainly in the Newberry Unit.
- Current plans for 2022:
 - Over 1 million seedlings to be planted (about $\frac{3}{4}$ of which are red pine and $\frac{1}{4}$ jack pine)
 - About 650 acres of herbicide will be sprayed using a helicopter and 200 acres will be sprayed using a skidder. All herbicide work will be done through contract.
 - Approx. 130 acres of precommercial thinning will be done to release red pine and oak.
 - DNR staff will roller chop 870 acres along with over 500 acres of anchor chain scarification and 1500 acres of trenching.
- Several pieces of cultivation equipment are at the Marquette shop for the winter getting repairs and fabrication work done in preparation for the coming season.

Fire

- Fire staff completed pre-season snowmobile trail inspections and are working to complete mid-season inspections in the days ahead.
- The fire staff in Newberry is working with the local snowmobile club on a contract to install a retaining wall involving the trail and state highway.
- The fire staff in the Sault Unit assisted with the re-organization of the Straights Area Snowmobile Club and helped to execute a new grant agreement.
- Fire staff are assisting the survey crew and land management staff with their work.
- In the coming months, fire staff will transition into preparing for the upcoming fire season. Equipment will be pulled out of storage and prepped for the season.
- As the snow melts and the ground begins to dry out in the southern lower peninsula staff will travel there to participate in both fire suppression and prescribed burning.

Road and Bridge

- In the Sault Unit there were 3 road projects completed: Batty Doe Bridge and Culvert Replacement, Old Stage Road Bridge in the Strickler GEMS, and Fibron Pond Culvert Replacement.
- In the Newberry Unit the Culhane Creek Crossing project was completed. A concrete box culvert was installed replacing an old wooden bridge that was failing.
- Shingleton Unit is working to secure engineering designs for the Stanley Lake Bridge project.
- FRD Fire staff worked to inventory all stream crossings on the state forest road system until the snow halted these efforts in December. Data is being recorded on these crossings as well as details about any structures at the site (bridge/culverts).

Facilities

- In the Shingleton Unit improvements are being made to the facilities in Shingleton and a new fire garage in Manistique is being planned.
- The Newberry Field Office is seeking bids for a ceiling insulation project.
- Plans for construction of the new Newberry Mass Timber office building are progressing. The DNR is looking for additional funding to cover the cost of the project. The current timeline puts groundbreaking on the project in October of 2022. The trees in an around the construction site at the location of the current Newberry Field Office will be harvested in the upcoming months to make room for the new office.

Good Neighbor Authority

- FRD forestry staff are administering active GNA timber sales and working to prepare timber sales scheduled for this year.
- FRD survey and fire staff have been working to set corners monument along forest service ownership boundaries along with clearing the boundary lines of saplings and debris.

Forest Health

- Winter surveys for hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) continue near the Lake Michigan shoreline with our Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area partners. The woolly material produced by the insect is most visible at the base of needles during the winter and early spring. No HWA has been detected in the U.P. to date.

Cooperative Forest Management

- Staff are working on commercial forest compliance and reviewing forest management plans.

Land use

- Land use permits involving road use and events were recently issued, reviewed, and closed.
- Staff are working with the Trespass Specialist to resolve historic trespass cases involving gates, cabins and other items on state land.

Vacancies

- Forest Technician positions in Newberry and Naubinway were advertised with interviews scheduled in February.
- The Forest Fire Officer 10 position in Manistique has been posted, with interviews in February.
- The District Manager, Inventory and Planning Specialist and Private Lands Forester vacancies are all currently filled with someone from the division who is working out of class.

Training

- In mid-February some of the fire staff will attend a training for tracked fire equipment.
- ATV/UTV training is planned for the beginning of March.
- Because of Covid several trainings are being postponed until in-person classes can be held.

EUP Wildlife Division: Dave Jentoft, Wildlife Biologist-Sault Ste. Marie

Wildlife Surveys

- U.P. Deer Camp Survey: This is a survey of U.P. camps and hunters assessing deer sightings, harvest, and opinions during the 16-day firearm season. It provides hunters and DNR staff with feedback on the status of the herd and hunting satisfaction soon after the season ends. Survey forms and materials were mailed out to 547 contact persons prior to the 2021 season. A report of results is expected to be available soon.
- Winter deer road survey: Staff will be surveying deer activity during the winter and documenting to better understand use of critical winter habitat. This data will allow UP Region staff to prioritize forest management activities when working with Forest Resources Division on management of state forest and provide information for interacting with stakeholders.
- Winter wolf survey: Currently the Michigan DNR conducts a survey every other winter to estimate the wolf population. The most recent survey, completed in the winter of 2019-20, resulted in a minimum wolf population

estimate of 695 wolves. The DNR is currently conducting the survey to produce a 2021-22 minimum population estimate.

Projects

- Shore to shore birding trail: Newberry staff continue to work with partnering agencies and organizations on development of this birding trail. Staff are seeking permissions for signs and working on brochures, trail maps, and a web site. A grand opening event is expected in August 2022. The birding trail provides a route for bird enthusiasts to travel and suggested stops for various bird species. This birding trail will fill a gap between the existing North Huron Birding Trail in the far east UP, and the Superior Birding Trail that includes sites from the Seney National Wildlife Refuge to the Whitefish Point Bird Observatory.
- Newberry staff are working with other staff on the design of educational panels that will be placed at the Blind Sucker Flooding in northern Luce County. This is part of a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative project.
- Staff are preparing for summer surveys and projects.

Deer Habitat Grant

- Applications are currently being accepted for the Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative (DHIPI) grant. The DHIPI is designed to foster productive relationships between the DNR, sportsperson’s organizations, interested citizens and other partners to produce tangible deer habitat improvements and educate the public about the importance of the habitat work accomplished through the grant and the scientific principles involved in it.
- Complete grant materials including the eligibility rules and application are available online at www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants then follow the link to the *Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative*.
- Deadline to submit an application is Friday, March 11.

Bear Season Update

- Weather was warm and wet, yet hunters reported seeing multiple bears on camera.
- Natural food sources were present across the landscape, ranging from average to above average with the notable exception of a lack of blueberries, which could have hindered or bolstered hunting opportunities depending on the location.
- A preliminary summary of the harvest by bear management unit is below.

PRELIMINARY

**2021 BEAR HUNT - REGISTRATION RESULTS Page 1
State Licensed Hunter Harvest**

BMU	DESIRED HARVEST	BEARS	LICENSE	% of QUOTA
		REGISTERED	QUOTA	REGISTERED
Bergland	200	260	1050	25
Baraga	300	286	1545	19
Amasa	165	150	500	30
Carney	105	118	550	21
Gwinn	150	180	950	19
Newberry	260	353	1170	30
Drummond Island	5	4	6	67
Zone 1	1185	1351	5771	23
Red Oak	317	336	770	44
Baldwin	168	133	340	39
Gladwin	24	36	120	30
Zone 2	509	505	1230	41
Total*	1694	1856	7001	27

* Total harvest lower than actual total due to registrations without hunt number

Wildlife Disease Update

- White-Nosed Syndrome (WNS): It is still present in Michigan. Unfortunately, due to Covid Wildlife staff were only able to survey a few bat hibernacula the past 2 years. However, the few sites that we have surveyed continue to hold bats at decreased but stable numbers. We plan to do a full survey season this winter/spring and should have a better idea of the impacts of WNS on Michigan's bat populations. We also continue to work with bat researchers from different universities searching for strategies to mitigate impacts from WNS on bats.
- Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHDV2): Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus 2 (RHDV2) is a highly contagious virus affecting domestic and wild rabbits. RHDV2 is a Foreign Animal Disease that has appeared periodically in North America and has a high case fatality rate. It has been found in wild populations of hare and jackrabbit in numerous states but has not been detected in Michigan. The Wildlife Health Section is on the look-out and are currently conducting what is called passive surveillance for the disease. For passive surveillance to work, we are largely dependent on DNR staff and public citizens to be our "eyes in the field"! Any wild animals that are detected with symptoms or histories suggestive of RHDV2 are requested to be rushed to the lab for testing. This last year we had a total of 9 individual animals submitted of species susceptible to the disease. Of those 9, only 2 had histories suggestive of RHDV2 and received disease specific testing. Both came back negative.

Caitlin Ott-Conn is representing the DNR in a joint effort with MDARD to create a response plan to: 1) detail our current passive surveillance efforts for wildlife (DNR) and captive (MDARD) animals; and 2) map out the who/what/when/where/how of our reaction to any detections. MDARD has taken the lead and the plan is largely complete. We do need the public's help and any detections can be reported online (<https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/ors/Survey/4>) or by calling Caitlin (517-582-5696) or the lab's main line (517-336-5030).

Marketing & Outreach Division – Jon Spieles, Statewide Interpretive Manager

Website migration update as of 2/2/22

- New State of Michigan website can be seen at Michigan.gov right now. The blue/teal header bar, white page with black and grey is going to be consistent throughout the entire SOM site.
- Main DNR site is about 60% complete (target go live, mid-March).
- The Outdoor Adventure Center site is about 99% complete (target go live, Feb. 18).
- The Michigan History Center site is about 75% complete (target go live, Feb. 18).

Recruitment assistance

- MOD is working on an ad campaign for Law Enforcement to boost conservation officer recruitment. The campaign involves Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and Google search components. The objective is to get in front of additional audiences and increase interest in becoming a conservation officer.
- Social media is also being used for PRD recruitment efforts for park ranger positions and seasonal staff. As part of this push, we are utilizing the Reel feature on Instagram. The Reel video format is similar to TikTok content and will help the department flesh out a video library for use on that platform when it is approved for use.

Recreation Search enhancement project

- MOD staff continue the years-long process of updating content within this legacy system, which is still very popular—with almost 2 million customers and 6 – 7 million page views per year. We meet with parks' staff individually to collect updated information and make changes to the database.

Education

- Statewide, visitor centers continue to see strong interest in outdoor winter public programming.
- School programming remains affected by COVID. Programs for more than 800 students have been canceled for winter/spring 2022 at the Bay City Visitor Center alone.
- Aquatic WILD and Flying WILD virtual classes for educators were held in January.

- Karen Gourlay, Shana Ramsey, and Elizabeth Brockwell-Tillman collaborated to offer a "Feeding Winter Birds" virtual program for over 40 participants.
- Hartwick Pines held four guided hikes including a "full moon hike" with 89 participants at -4 degrees! Since Jan 1.
- Hunt and Fish Center Decoy Carving takes place every Thursday evening through the winter months averaging 15 participants.
- Hard Water Schools ("how to ice fish") were held in January at the RAM Center and at the Hunt and Fish Center.
- Shoe Years Day Hike and two Lantern Lit Ski/Hikes at Waterloo's Eddy Discovery Center (complete with a Hot Cocoa Bar) averaged approximately 150 participants.

MultiLingual Communications Workgroup

- A multilingual communications workgroup kicked off a project to evaluate, research, and draft a planning document to provide direction and process for future communications in languages other than English.

Licensing Policies

- An internal work group was created to review existing policies and consider areas that may need a new policy. The goals for this review are to protect the department's needs, remove any barriers to providing excellent customer service, and simplify work processes.

Finance

- VTS seasonal orders are ready to be submitted. The vendor cut off truck orders effective immediately for 2022, orders have to wait till 2023.

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

As you will read in the bi-weekly reports below, officers had a busy deer season and activity has continued to be high with ice fishermen, trappers, and snowmobilers. Our newest officer to the district, CO Brandon Maki, has successfully completed his training and is now working in Chippewa County.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 11-29-2021

- **COs Steve Butzin and Chris Lynch** of Delta County and **CO Dan Robinson** of Isabella County worked together to solve a complaint of shots being fired after legal hunting hours. This complaint occurred in Delta County during the September bear season. The shots were triangulated to a camp where several bear hunters were known to frequent. The complaint led to several interviews and a search warrant being served. After further investigation one hunter was found to have been hunting in a tree stand well after legal hunting hours. The hunter shot a black bear almost an hour and a half after legal hunting hours had ended. CO Butzin had also dealt with this same hunter last year for taking a deer without a license and using the deer license of another. A report is being submitted to the Delta County Prosecutor for the illegal take of a black bear, possess a loaded firearm after legal hunting hours, and using an artificial light to aid in the taking of game. If convicted the hunter could face fines of over \$3,500 and loss of hunting privileges for several years.
- **COs Steve Butzin and Chris Lynch** while on patrol during the opening days of firearm deer season encountered several violations. These included possess/transport loaded firearm in a motor vehicle, hunting blinds placed on state land before September 1st, individuals habitually violating bait regulations, and operate ORV's cross country. Several citations were issued for these violations. In all, many successful hunters were contacted.
- On opening morning of firearm season, **CO Andrea Dani** followed tracks to a blind in Diffin. There she observed a hunter field dressing a deer. She checked the deer and while turning its head to observe the antlers, the hunter became nervous and sighed heavily, asking how much trouble he was in. The hunter stated he was just about to put his son's single deer license on the spike-horn buck, because he only had a restricted combination tag left. The hunter was cited for failure to immediately tag the deer, borrowing the tag of another, and APR violation in Zone 1. CO Dani seized the deer and the hunter's rifle. A report is being filed with the Alger County Prosecutor seeking charges and reimbursement to the state for the illegally taken deer, license revocation, and for the adult son for loaning his tag.
- Several hunters were cited for no hunter's orange in the field. Many hunters were found to have removed their hunter's orange or simply did not have it in their possession. Hunters were reminded of the importance of hunter orange due to the number of people taking to the woods for rifle season. Some blinds are camouflaged enough that other hunters cannot see the blind

unless they also see an orange garment inside. **CO Dani** urges all to wear hunter orange to help avoid a completely unnecessary tragedy.

- **Acting Sgt. Mark Zitnik** followed up on an illegal blind that had been left out all year long. CO Zitnik informed the hunter that he did not take his two deer blinds down and a tree stand after last season. The hunter stated he abandoned the tree stand, and besides in the U.P. we leave or blinds out. The hunter was cited and the CO educated the man on the importance of taking care of the land and to have his blinds removed at the end of season.
- **CO Andrea Dani and Sgt. Mark Zitnik** checked a hunter on opening day of season that had too much bait out. Upon checking the hunter, he did not have his hunter orange on. He was warned about exceeding 2 gallons of bait and was issued a citation for no hunter's orange.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** were on patrol when they were dispatched to a recreational trespass call. Once on scene the COs met with the landowner who was out with the trespassers. After interviewing the suspects and witnesses, a search of the area was conducted, and numerous other violations were discovered. One suspect shot a spike horn without a license, loaned two licenses to another, had two uncased firearms in a motor vehicle, and was recreational trespassing. The other suspect shot two does without a license, borrowed two licenses, possessed an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle, recreational trespassed, and was currently on bond for several violent felony charges he is facing and is prohibited from possessing firearms. The landowner elected not to press charges for recreational trespass and a report will be submitted to the Delta County Prosecutors office for review on the other violations. The deer and firearms were seized.
- On opening day of the firearm deer season **COs Robert Freeborn and Brandon Maki** were walking back to their patrol vehicle after following ORV tracks. When officers reached the truck, they observed a side by side come over a nearby hill and stop when they were spotted. The COs walked over to the individual in the side by side and contacted him. The man stated he was on his way to his deer blind for the evening. His rifle case was visible, and when asked if officers could check it, he handed it to them. Upon opening the rifle case it was found that the rifle was loaded. The individual was cited for transporting a loaded firearm in his ORV.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Brandon Maki** were patrolling near the Hickey Creek Truck Trail when they observed fresh ORV tracks leaving the main road. Legal shooting hours had just passed, and COs observed two four-wheelers approaching. COs contacted the two four-wheeler operators which one of them was not wearing a helmet. Officers checked both hunters' rifles and they were both being transported legally. The individual not wearing a helmet was cited.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Brandon Maki** joined **CO Todd Sumbera** for a patrol on Drummond Island. Officers met a vehicle on a backroad and started conversing with the driver. It was discovered that the driver was hunting earlier in the morning. When asked if officers could check his rifle, he stated yes. Officers opened the rear door of the truck and observed a rifle laying on the backseat in a wide-open case. The driver of the vehicle stated he was drying his gun since it got wet while hunting. Officers advised the driver that his truck is not the proper place to dry his gun and issued him a citation for an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Brandon Maki** found a vehicle blocking a road. Officers followed an illegal ORV trail on foot that led them to a blind. The COs knocked on the blind and the hunter emerged not wearing any hunter's orange. Officers spoke with the hunter and notified him of his multiple violations. The hunter was given several warnings but was cited for not wearing his hunter's orange.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Brandon Maki** received an anonymous RAP complaint about a subject who possibly shot an illegal deer. Officers located the subject and after a short interview the suspect confessed to shooting an 8 point without a license and before legal shooting hours. The suspect also produced a kill tag that was still in his wallet that was purchased after the deer was killed. The firearm and antlers were seized as evidence and the COs will be submitting a report to the local prosecutor for all violations.
- **CO Michael Evink** was responding to a hunter harassment complaint when he observed a pick-up with no plates parked off a two-track road. It was nearing the end of hunting hours, so the CO decided to sit on the truck. Once the hunters entered the truck and began to leave CO Evink conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. The CO contacted the three occupants in the single cab truck. CO Evink checked to make sure the firearms were unloaded and cased and asked to see their hunting licenses. Two of the occupants informed the CO they forgot their licenses at camp. The CO could smell the odor of intoxicants and asked who had been drinking. CO Evink continued to investigate the hunting without a license and hunting under the influence of alcohol. A report is being submitted to the Schoolcraft County prosecutor for requested charges.
- **CO Michael Evink** observed a four-wheeler operating on the roadway without a helmet and carrying a firearm. The ORV stopped in a field and the CO contacted the operator. The operator was a juvenile, so CO Evink followed the young hunter home. Once at the residence the CO realized no one was home, but he was able to contact the mother by phone. CO Evink informed the mother that he had contacted her son operating an ORV on the roadway, no helmet, no ORV license, and he was headed out with a loaded firearm on his ORV and no hunter's orange. Additionally, the operator was operating on property that didn't belong to his family. CO Evink advised the mother that he would be submitting a report to the prosecutor for referral to the juvenile courts.

- **COs Colton Gelinias and Cole Vanoosten** observed a truck in a field well after shooting hours ended the day before firearm deer season in Mackinac County. The COs contacted the individual after he left the field and returned to the residence. Inside the vehicle was a loaded shotgun, rifle, and bow. The individual claimed they did not have the rifle in the deer blind with them, just the bow. A citation was issued for loaded gun in motor vehicle.
- **COs Colton Gelinias and Cole Vanoosten** contacted several deer hunters on the opener of the firearm deer season with excessive bait piles, well over the legal two-gallon limit. Citations were issued.
- **CO Colton Gelinias** received a RAP complaint of possible recreational trespass in Chippewa County. After observing the kill site of the deer, it was determined that recreational trespass did not occur. However, the suspect failed to validate the kill tag for the five point that was hanging in the garage. A citation was issued for failing to validate kill tag.
- **CO Colton Gelinias** contacted a hunter in Mackinac who was not wearing orange, nor did not have any orange with him in the field. A citation was issued for failing to wear hunter orange.
- **CO Colton Gelinias** received several calls of an individual burning an old farmhouse that had tires inside, along with other hazardous materials in Mackinac County. A citation was issued for the illegal burn of hazardous materials.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were patrolling southern Chippewa County when they came across a vehicle on a remote forest road. After a brief conversation CO Vinson asked to check the occupant's firearms to ensure that they were unloaded. The passenger's firearm was found to be loaded in both the chamber and magazine; he also did not possess a valid 2021 license. A citation was issued for the loaded firearm in a motor vehicle and a warning was given for no license.
- **CO Justin Vinson and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were patrolling toward Hulbert when they encountered a side by side operating on M-123. Violations witnessed included operate state highway, fail to ride to the extreme right, operate during ORV quiet hours November 15-30, and fail to display ORV registration. A citation was issued for the ORV license violation and warnings were given for the rest.
- **CO Justin Vinson and Sgt. Calvin Smith** checked on several hunting locations that were found in violation previously in the year. Common violations witnessed included no name on ground blind, over limit of bait, and failure to wear hunters' orange several warnings and citations were issued.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was patrolling Mackinac County opening morning of firearm deer season when he observed an individual operating an ORV without a helmet. CO Sumbera contacted the individual who stated he didn't have a helmet on because he was running a little late to his deer blind this morning. CO Sumbera checked the rifle which was found to be loaded. A citation was issued for loaded firearm on a motor vehicle.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was patrolling northern Mackinac County near the end of shooting hours when he contacted four individuals, the first of which handed CO Sumbera his 2021 single deer license and admitted to already harvesting a five point which he had tagged with his grandson's deer tag and possessed a loaded firearm in the motor vehicle. This first individual also stated that another member of the hunting party had harvested a buck this morning. The second subject was squared away, the third individual contacted CO Sumbera asked if he had a rifle in the truck and the hunter stated that he did but that it was not in a case, the hunter also acknowledged that he knew it was required to be cased and unloaded by law. CO Sumbera contacted the fourth individual who was believed to have harvested a buck earlier that morning. When asked to see his deer license the individual provided CO Sumbera with a 2021 single deer tag and stated that he had not had any success today or this deer season. CO Sumbera asked about the deer he had shot this morning and the hunter admitted that he had shot a buck this morning and placed his wife's tag on the deer. Citations were issued for the tagging violations and for the loaded and uncased firearms.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** investigated a deer shot on opening day without a license. The suspect stated that she did shoot the deer but claimed she had her license before shooting the deer. When confronted with the fact that the license was bought with only minutes remaining in legal hunting hours, the suspect confessed to shooting the deer and buying her deer license after the fact. A report is being compiled and submitted to the prosecutor for review.
- **CO Mike Olesen and Sgt. Calvin Smith** contacted two hunters in the Hiawatha National Forest that had known violations of over limit of bait. Both hunters were also found to be hunting without their deer license in possession as they both stated that they left them in their vehicles. Citations were issued for hunting without a deer license in their possession and warnings were given for the excessive bait.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol during the evening of firearm deer season opener when he encountered a hunter's vehicle that was parked well after legal hunting hours. CO VanOosten began walking into the woods to attempt to contact the hunter when he met the hunter exiting the woods. The hunter was using artificial light and still in possession of a loaded firearm. When asked what legal hunting hours was for the day, the hunter was unable to provide the correct time but stated that he knew he was hunting late. CO VanOosten informed the hunter that it was over 30 minutes after legal hunting hours. A citation was issued to the hunter for possession of a loaded firearm after legal shooting hours.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol the day before firearm deer season when he followed an illegal ORV trail around a gate and into a closed area of Mackinac County that led to individual that was archery hunting for deer. The hunter admitted that he had driven behind the gate on several occasions but not that day because he was hunting. When asked how much bait he had out,

the hunter stated he thought about 200lbs. Upon closer examination it was determined that the hunter had approximately 800lbs of sugar beets out, well over the 2-gallon limit. A citation was issued for hunting over a bait larger than 2 gallons and a warning was issued for operating in a closed area.

- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol of Schoolcraft County when he encountered a hunter returning from an evening hunt on an ORV. Contact was made and the hunter stated that he had not unloaded his weapon because of the cold weather. The rifle was lying next to the hunter's case on the inside of the side by side with the barrel pointed up towards the driver. CO VanOosten inspected the rifle to find that it was fully loaded in both magazine and chamber. A citation was issued for transporting a loaded and uncased firearm in an ORV and warnings were issued for possession of a loaded firearm after legal hunting hours.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol of Schoolcraft County when he encountered a hunter returning from an evening hunt. Contact was made and it was determined that the driver was in possession of a loaded pistol in the backseat of the vehicle. The driver was not a concealed pistol license (CPL) holder. A warning was issued to the man for felony carrying a concealed weapon (CCW) and a citation was issued for uncased firearm in a motor vehicle.

District 2 B-Weekly Report 12-13-2021

- **CO Steve Butzin** was out on patrol in Masonville Township when he encountered one individual in possession of a 6-point buck with a license that had not been validated properly. Further investigation found that two individuals were responsible for taking several bucks in Delta and Menominee Counties without licenses over the past several years. In all, one 7-point buck and two 6-point bucks were taken without licenses. Along with these violations, another individual was found to be loaning and borrowing deer license to another. Reports have been submitted to the district courts of Delta and Menominee Counties. If convicted the hunters could face restitution of \$6,000 and loss of hunting privileges for several years.
- **CO Andrea Dani** met with Michigan State Police (MSP) officers, MSP Emergency Services (ES) Team, and Alger County Deputies at a command post in Chatham, MI after Alger County Deputies attempted to serve a Transport/Evaluation Order on a subject in Eben Junction. The subject became resistant and after struggling with officers and being tased, was able to get into his house and retrieve a long gun, which he pointed at the deputies. Deputies were able to make distance and retreat without injury. The MSP ES Team arrived and set a perimeter on the suspect's residence. The command post needed a form of internet for satellite view of the location to continue planning and tracking individual officer locations with a visual aid. CO Dani provided her computer which was able to pull signal from her patrol truck to give a satellite view of the property. The subject eventually tried to flee the house on foot and was quickly taken into custody by the ES Team. The subject was turned over to the Alger County Sheriff's Department and transported to Upper Peninsula Health System – Marquette for evaluation.
- **COs Andrea Dani, Mike Olesen, Justin Vinson, Cole VanOosten, Todd Sumbera, Steve Butzin, Mark Zitnik,** and several other U.P. and Northern L.P. officers attended a four-day interview and interrogation training course in Sault Ste. Marie. Several new tactics were introduced.
- **CO Rob Freeborn and PCO Brandon Maki** responded to an individual with a hunter harassment complaint. The complainant stated that he heard loud revving of a truck and cursing coming from where he parked. The complainant then walked out of the woods to avoid a confrontation. When he went to retrieve his truck later, he found that his truck was dragged several feet away from where it was parked. A report will be submitted after the investigation is completed.
- With the inclement weather that passed through Schoolcraft County on Saturday, December 11th, **CO Rob Freeborn and PCO Brandon Maki** assisted local law enforcement and tow companies with a plethora of vehicles in the ditch.
- COs Todd Sumbera, Mike Olesen, Cole VanOosten and Sgt. Calvin Smith attended the Wolf Advisory Council meeting in St. Ignace on December 7th. The meeting had a good turnout with lots of good public interactions.
- **COs Mike Olesen and Sgt. Calvin Smith** contacted a pair of hunters in the Hiawatha National Forest that had known hunting violations such as over limit of bait, operating ORV closed area, and no identification on deer blind. Upon contacting the hunters, neither of them had their hunting license in their possession. The hunters were cited for their violations into the 91st District Court.
- **CO Colton Gelinis** received a compliant regarding a deer killed on Mackinac Island which is closed to hunting. CO Gelinis received the name of the suspect and began to look at past hunting license purchases, the suspect had never purchased a Michigan hunting license. CO Gelinis contacted Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to see if the suspect was a tribal member, the suspect was a tribal member, however, did not possess a 2021 hunting license. With this information, CO Gelinis contacted Tribal CO Josh Jezewski for assistance in the investigation. Both CO Gelinis and Tribal CO Jezewski went over to Mackinac Island to interview the suspect, the COs were provided a ride to the island by United States Coast Guard. Once on the island, CO Gelinis and Tribal CO Jezewski were given a ride to the suspect residence by Mackinac Island Police Department. Upon contacting the suspect, CO Gelinis and Tribal CO Jezewski found a fresh deer head of an 8-point buck and an additional set of antlers. CO Gelinis and Tribal CO Jezewski interviewed the suspect, who confessed to killing both deer without a 2021 tribal hunting license. The suspect was adamant that both deer weren't killed on Mackinac Island. A cell phone was seized as evidence and is pending further investigation. Tribal CO Jezewski submitted a report to tribal prosecutor for ten violations of tribal law.

- **CO Colton Gelinias** assisted **DNR Biologist Kristie Sitar** with a mortality signal from a wolf collar in Luce County. CO Gelinias and Biologist Sitar found the dead wolf, that appeared to have been killed by other wolves from a nearby pack.
- **Sgt. Calvin Smith** responded to a vehicle that had become stranded in the ditch after losing control during the recent winter storm. Sgt. Smith checked the wellbeing of the occupants who luckily were not injured and assisted the towing company with traffic control while the vehicle was removed from the ditch.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 12-27-2021

- **CO Todd Sumbera** submitted multiple reports to both the Sault Tribal prosecutor's office as well as the Chippewa County Prosecutors Office. One of which was shots fired at night from a motor vehicle involving both state and tribal individuals. The second case submitted was for an illegal deer taken on opening day of rifle season.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** took part in a virtual training for professional development on Ethical Leaders.
- **COs Justin Vinson, Cole VanOosten, and Colton Gelinias** attended a joint active shooter response training hosted by Luce County Sheriff's Department collaborating Michigan State Police, United States Border Patrol, Mackinac County Sheriff's Department, Luce County EMS and Fire, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The training was a collaborative effort to simulate the response to an active shooter at Tahquamenon Area Schools. The training assisted to identify issues that could arise during an actual response as well as coordinating the various agencies to respond.
- **COs Colton Gelinias and Cole VanOosten** received information regarding a deer that supposedly had been illegally harvested. Contact with the hunter was made who initially stated that his wife had shot the deer. After a lengthy interview it was determined that a different family member had shot the deer and was unable to locate it. After the family member that had shot the deer returned downstate the family found the deer and didn't tell the hunter. The deer was tagged with the wife's tag and dropped off at the taxidermist. When asked why they did not tell the hunter when they found the deer, they stated they had watched the deer grow up and had been feeding and hunting the deer for 3 years. Because the hunter wasn't able to find the deer they decided to tag the deer and have it mounted for their house. Additionally, it was determined that the husband had been hunting without a deer license that year. A report was generated requesting charges against the couple for hunting without a license and tagging the deer of another.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was patrolling Chippewa County when he observed an ORV traveling down a trail with the operator and a passenger. A stop was conducted on the ORV and the driver and passenger were informed that riding double on an ORV not designed to do so is illegal in Michigan. The ORV was inspected, and it was determined that it also did not have an ORV license. The operator was cited for operating an ORV without a license and a warning was given for operating with a passenger when not designed for such use.
- **CO Chris Lynch and CO Steve Butzin** conducted several meat processor and taxidermy inspections. Compliance was up greatly this year after enforcement efforts were taken last year with ones that were in violation.
- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint from the MSP Post in Gladstone of a possible safety zone violation. CO Butzin responded to the complaint and found both parties to be in violation of each other's safety zone. One individual was found to have taken an 8-point whitetail buck without a license. Another individual was found to be in possession of five firearms while being a felon. The buck and firearms were seized, and a report has been submitted to the Delta County Prosecutor requesting charges on both parties.
- While on patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Brandon Maki** observed a vehicle that was partially off the roadway. The COs stopped to assist and after checking both occupants, it was determined that the passenger had 4 outstanding warrants all from lower Michigan. As the COs were placing the subject under arrest, they found a large amount of narcotics on his person. The COs contacted the local K-9 unit for further investigation into the vehicle and occupants. A total of 8grams of heroin, 1.5 grams of meth and 1.4 grams of cocaine were found on the subject. He was arrested for the warrant as well as narcotics and lodged in the local county jail. The driver was also issued a citation for an expired registration on the vehicle.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 1-10-2022

- **CO Colton Gelinias** was patrolling western Mackinac County when he observed a truck exiting state land after shooting hours. After following the truck, CO Gelinias observed there was no registration plate on the vehicle, a traffic stop was made. In the back of the truck there was four fresh quarters of a deer, two backstraps, two hearts, and another freshly killed doe with no tag on it. After speaking with the two subjects, it was determined that the quartered-up deer was a doe shot by a state licensed hunter with a rifle during late archery season. The second deer was shot by a tribal member, however he failed to have the proper license attached. CO Gelinias is requesting charges on the first suspect for taking deer closed season, destroy the identity of sex of a deer and failing to immediately attach/validate kill tag for the second suspect. The quartered deer and rifle were seized.
- **CO Colton Gelinias** received a call from **CO Cole Vanoosten** regarding a wolf collar that was found in northern Luce County. CO Gelinias went to the scene where the wolf collar was found and began looking for additional evidence. Not long after looking in the snow, blood and hair were found scattered throughout a large area. This investigation is ongoing.

- **COs Mike Oleson and Brandon Maki** were just finishing up checking ice fishermen on Ashmun Bay in Sault Ste. Marie when they observed a snowmobile operating on the nearby trail. The COs drove to the next trail crossing and observed the same snowmobile operating with an expired trail permit being displayed. A stop was initiated on the snowmobile, and it was discovered that the individual driving had a local warrant. Dispatch advised that the local police department did not want to place a hold on the individual and he was advised of the warrant and released after being cited for failing to obtain a trail permit.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Sgt. Calvin Smith** observed a group of snowmobiles operating within the city limits of Sault Ste. Marie. A stop was initiated due to not seeing registrations being displayed on two of the snowmobiles. It was discovered that one individual had valid registration stickers but did not have them properly displayed, and the other did not have his snowmobile registered at all. One rider was cited for operating a snowmobile with expired registration and the other was given a verbal warning for failing to display his registration.
- **COs Cole Vanoosten, Justin Vinson, Michael Oleson, Brandon Maki and Sgt. Calvin Smith** performed a snowmobile patrol and sound meter testing in the Tahquamenon falls area. The COs issued 10 citations for multiple violations consisting of exceeding noise level limits, operate snowmobile with expired registration, and for failing to attach trail permits.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on snowmobile patrol in the town of Newberry in an area of frequent complaints when he observed a snowmobiler disregard a stop sign. A stop was made on the individual and a citation was issued.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** were on snowmobile patrol of Luce County when they encountered a large group of snowmobiles with several violations present. A traffic stop was initiated, and contact was made. One of the riders stated that he had changed the body panels of his snowmobile which is why he didn't have registration stickers. The COs ran the VIN number on the snowmobile to determine that the snowmobile had never been registered and the operator made up the story. A citation was issued for operating an unregistered snowmobile.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** were on snowmobile patrol of Luce County when they encountered two snowmobiles with expired registration stickers and no trail stickers. A stop was initiated, and it was determined that one of the snowmobiles was expired and the other didn't have the registration displayed. Additionally, both operators stated that they had not purchased trail permits for the snowmobiles. Citations were issued for failing to obtain trail permits and warnings were given for the registration violations.
- **CO Andrea Dani and CO Robert Freeborn** were on snowmobile patrol in Alger County coordinated by acting Sgt Mark Zitnik. The officers encountered many snowmobilers. CO Dani issued one citation for an unregistered snowmobile, and CO Freeborn issued two additional citations of the same. Several warnings were given for trail permits in possession not being attached due to the cold temperatures.
- **CO Andrea Dani and acting Sgt Mark Zitnik** interviewed a mother and 34-year-old son regarding borrowing of deer licenses. It was discovered that the son borrowed a deer license from his mother, who admitted she has never killed a deer. The son confessed to the same and stated he used his mother's tag on a 5-point buck and later used his own tag on a spike-horn. A report is being submitted to the Alger County Prosecutor's Office for loaning/borrowing a deer license and taking an over-limit of antlered deer.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol in Wells Township when a BOL was issued for a vehicle traveling towards his direction. It was reported that the passenger had the driver at gunpoint while traveling through Escanaba. The call came in from a passerby that saw this occur. CO Butzin was the closest unit and in under a minute was able to locate the vehicle and begin to follow at a distance. Once an additional unit was able to arrive, CO Butzin conducted a felony traffic stop on the vehicle. Once the passengers were ordered out of the vehicle it was found that they were four juveniles that thought it would be funny to hold an airsoft gun to the driver's head allowing others to see. The airsoft gun did not have an orange plastic tip and at a distance did appear to be a real handgun. The juveniles were well educated on the seriousness of this incident and how a situation like this could have ended tragically. The incident was turned over to Michigan State Police who were able to contact the parents of the involved juveniles. Agencies involved included the Michigan State Police and Gladstone Public Safety.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was conducting follow up from this past deer season when he encountered several violations which led to two separate cases. These violations involved four different individuals for taking a total of six deer without licenses, loaning and borrowing licenses, taking an overlimit of bucks, as well as using a firearm to take deer during muzzleloader season. Reports have been submitted to the 94th District Court of Delta County pending charges. If convicted these individuals could face a total of \$15,000.00 worth of restitution to the state.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was patrolling Little Bay de Noc where he checked several fishermen doing very well. Solid ice was finally starting to form, and several fishermen had their limit of walleye. While on patrol, CO Butzin encountered several violations for individuals operating an unregistered snowmobile and operating an ORV without a permit. Several citations were issued.
- **CO Mike Evink** was working an area of state highway in reference to local complaints of snowmobile trespassing and highway operation. Within 10 minutes CO Evink encountered a snowmobile operating on the plowed portion of the state highway. CO Evink conducted a traffic stop on the snowmobile. The operator had failed to register the sled, had no trail permit and was operating on the highway. He was given a ticket for the trail permit and warned for other violations.

- **COs Michael Evink and Mark Zitnik** conducted a snowmobile patrol in western Alger County. There was a descent volume of traffic and generally compliance was good. Warnings were issued for failure to attach trail permit and fail to attach registration.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and CO Andrea Dani** were patrolling local hot spots on snowmobiles making sure everyone was practicing safe and responsible riding. While overall compliance was very high, the COs came across 3 snowmobiles that had expired registrations. Citations were issued for the violations. Several warnings were issued for improper display of registrations.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 1-24-2022

- **CO Andrea Dani** stopped a snowmobile on Trail 7 near Doe Lake Road when she did not observe a trail permit nor valid registration. The snowmobile belonged to the operator's friend, who was also present. The operator was issued a citation for failing to purchase a trail permit and warned for operating an unregistered snowmobile.
- Charges have been issued by the Alger County Prosecutor after investigations by **CO Andrea Dani and Sgt Mark Zitnik** into loaning and borrowing deer licenses. The officers interviewed the license loaner (mother) and obtained a confession that she had never shot a deer, despite there being records of her deer license attached to a 5-point deer taken to a local meat processor. The license borrower (adult son) was later interviewed and confessed to using his mother's license on the first antlered deer (5-point) he killed, and then using his own single deer license on a spike-horn buck he killed later in the season. Charges for the borrower include taking an over-limit of antlered deer and using another's deer license. The license loaner was issued the charge of permitting another person to use her deer license.
- While traveling on US2, local dispatch advised **CO Robert Freeborn** that he was close to an incident that happened just behind him involving a semi and a pick-up truck pulling a snowmobile trailer. The truck pulling the trailer attempted to pass the semi and struck the mirror of the semi causing damage when doing so and continued traveling east. CO Freeborn turned around and attempted to catch up to the suspect pick-up. After several miles, CO Freeborn located the suspect pick-up and made an enforcement stop on the vehicle. MSP arrived on the scene as well and after talking with both drivers, a deal was made between the two to have the mirror fixed.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a warrant for an illegal deer case from the fall. The suspect was located and served the warrant for taking a deer without a license. His court date will be the following week.
- **CO Robert Freeborn along with CO Chris Lynch and Sgt Mark Zitnik** patrolled Little Bays De Noc to check ice fishermen. While checking ice fisherman CO Freeborn checked a shack with what appeared to be too many lines out. When asked how many lines, the fisherman stated they didn't know and were more than likely over. It was found that they were 1 line over. A citation was issued for the extra line. Later in the patrol, CO Freeborn observed 2 fishermen drilling holes and getting gear set up to fish. When CO Freeborn made contact and asked for fishing licenses, one of the fishermen stated he didn't have a license and wasn't fishing. When asked about his freshly drilled hole and Garmin graph he had set up, the fisherman still stated he wasn't fishing. Further investigation found that the 2 fishermen were renting a sleeper shack approximately a half-mile away and had a buddy fishing there still. After bringing the 2 fishermen back to their sleeper shack, it was determined that their buddy who was left there had too many lines out. After talking with all three fishermen, it was determined that the fishermen without a license had tip-ups out at the sleeper shack. A citation was issued for fishing without a license.
- While off duty, **CO Robert Freeborn** received a call from local dispatch advising of a Polaris Ranger with tracks that had broken through river ice and was partially submerged with 2 occupants. The location was in a remote location on a pipeline that was only accessible by snowmobile. CO Freeborn responded along with the local Sheriff's Office and MSP. The Ranger was found, and the occupants were removed from the Ranger. The occupants were checked out by EMS on the scene and released. The Ranger was removed from the river by a local towing company.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was conducting follow up from this past deer season when he encountered several violations which led to two separate cases. These violations involved four different individuals for taking a two deer without licenses, loaning and borrowing licenses, as well as taking an overlimit of bucks. Reports have been submitted to the 94th District Court of Delta County pending charges. If convicted these individuals could face a total of \$8,000.00 worth of restitution to the state.
- **CO Steve Butzin, Sgt. Mark Zitnik, and CO Chris Lynch** provided security at a two-day wolf advisory council meeting that was held in Escanaba.
- **CO Chris Lynch and CO Robert Freeborn** patrolled for snowmobile activity on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The COs checked hundreds of snowmobiles and compliance was high.
- **CO Robert Freeborn, Sgt. Mark Zitnik, and CO Chris Lynch** conducted a group patrol on Little Bay De Noc. The COs checked numerous anglers and unfortunately there was not too many fish being caught. Two citations were issued during the patrol for fishing with too many lines and for fishing without a license. Several warnings for given for failing to license ORVS.
- **CO Brandon Maki** patrolled Trail 8 near Brimley and trail 45 near Paradise for snowmobile violations. The trails were very active and CO Maki contacted many groups of riders. CO Maki cited multiple individuals for failing to display their registration and failing to attach trail stickers.

- **CO Mike Olesen** performed a snowmobile patrol in Chippewa County. During the patrol CO Olesen observed multiple violations. These violations ranged from unregistered snowmobiles, no trail permit, to improper display of licensing. Several citations were issued, and verbal warnings were given for the minor violations.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** responded to a call at approximately 4am of a stranded snowmobiler in Northern Luce County. CO VanOosten responded to the area and located the individual after approximately 8 miles on a snowmobile trail. The rider stated that they had gotten up north to ride snowmobiles in the early hours of the morning and he couldn't contain his excitement, so he decided to go for a late-night snowmobile ride alone. The rider became stuck in deep snow and walked approximately 4 miles before being located. The subject was evaluated, and it was determined that he was healthy after his night in the woods. CO VanOosten returned the individual to his cabin where he was reunited with his family.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol of Luce County when he encountered two snowmobilers operating against the flow of traffic on a busy roadway. A traffic stop was conducted, and the individuals stated that they were just following the snowmobile tracks on the side of the road. CO VanOosten showed the individuals the tracks that were also on the other side of the road and explained that the tracks they were following were probably from snowmobiles driving the other direction on the correct side of the road. In addition to the operating against the flow of traffic, it was determined that neither snowmobile had registration stickers displayed and one snowmobile had not been registered for over two years. Citations were issued to the individuals for failure to display registration and warnings were issued for operating an unregistered snowmobile and for operating against the flow of traffic.
- **PCO Marissa Hassevoort and CO Cole VanOosten** conducted a snowmobile patrol of Luce County. Two individuals were contacted for disregarding a stop sign, the individuals admitted to going 30-40 mph through the stop sign and said they weren't worried about it because it was dark out. Two citations were issued.
- **COs Justin Vinson, Colton Gelinas, and PCO Cameron Wright** conducted a sound meter patrol north of Newberry, in response to receiving several noise complaints. Several snowmobilers were contacted. Common violations witnessed included, failing to display registration, operating with an expired registration, and exceeding the legal noise emissions level. Several citations and warnings were issued.
- **CO Justin Vinson and PCO Cameron Wright** patrolled near the Chippewa and Luce County line monitoring an intersection where snowmobilers will typically run the stop sign entering the roadway carelessly. No careless operation was witnessed but several sleds were stopped for failing to display registration or trail permits. Citations were issued.

Finance & Operations: Michelle Zellar, Eastern UP

- Customer Service Centers are open to the public from 8am to 5pm, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays until at least February 28, 2022, which is when they will return to regular business hours 8am to 5pm, Monday thru Friday. Naubinway and Sault St. Marie, are open during this time as well.
- Update on the status of the proposed Mass Timber office/garage facility at Newberry: The DNR and DTMB entered into a contract with Lord Aeck Sargent (LAS) of Detroit to provide the design, engineering, and construction administration of the Newberry Mass Timber office project. A kickoff meeting was held on January 21. First, the DNR is seeking additional funding from DTMB so the garage space can be constructed at the same time as the office rather than doing the office as Phase 1 and the garage as Phase 2 later. Hopefully the DNR will be successful with this request. A project timeline was provided by LAS. As with all timelines, it is subject to change, but if it holds true, groundbreaking could potentially occur in October 2022. A lot of things must go right without any significant delays for this to happen, but the prospect is exciting.
- ENJOY FREE FISHING WEEKEND! Two days twice a year, families and friends can enjoy one of Michigan's premier outdoor activities, Michigan Fishing, for FREE! Upcoming Free Fishing Weekend dates for 2022 are February 19 & 20 and June 11 & 12. All fishing license fees will be waived for two days. Residents and out-of-state visitors may enjoy fishing on both inland and Great Lakes' waters for all species of fish. **All fishing regulations will still apply.** A **Recreation Passport** will NOT be required for entry into state parks and boating access sites during Free Fishing Weekends. You can enjoy the outdoors and fish with your family, friends or make it a solo trip! Want to know when future Free Fishing Weekends will be? The winter weekend is always the Saturday and Sunday of President's Day weekend, and the summer weekend is always the Saturday and Sunday following the first full week of June.

February 2022

- 2/1 – Deadline for Spring Turkey applications; Early Crow season opens
- 2/1 – Bobcat Hunting closes in Unit D, also close of U.P. bobcat trapping (Units A & B)
- 2/5/22 – Sturgeon spearing season on Black Lake, Cheboygan Co. – info (231) 340-0276
- 2/11– Last day to register U.P. bobcats taken by trapping (Units A & B)
- 2/12 & 2/13 – 2022 Winter Free Fishing Weekend
- 2/21/22 – Last day for ice shanties on Lake St. Clair (see p. 62 in guide)

March 2022

- 3/1 – New Year: hunt / fish / ORV licenses go on sale (most licenses expire 3/31)
- 3/1 – Can apply for 2023 Pure Michigan Hunt
- 3/1 – Hand netting opens (smelt, suckers, bowfin, carp, gar, shad, goldfish) – see p. 23
- 3/1 – Fox hunting closes; also, Coyote, Fox, Muskrat, Mink trapping all close.
- 3/1 – Bobcat Hunting closes (Units A, B, C), and Badger Trapping closes in Zone 3.
- 3/1 – Tree stands, and ladders must be removed from all public lands
- 3/1 – Last day for ice shanties in southern Lower Peninsula counties, see p. 62
- 3/1 – Pike, Walleye, Sauger close on the “Boundary Waters” (see p. 25 for exceptions)
- 3/7 – Drawing Results posted for Spring Turkey hunts
- 3/11 – Last day to register Bobcats taken by hunting (Units A, B, C) – see p. 12 for all dates
- 3/14 – Leftover Turkey on sale for unsuccessful applicants; OTC begins 3/21
- 3/15 – Last day for ice shanties in northern Lower Peninsula & Boundary Waters; see p. 62
- 3/15 – Walleye, Pike, Muskie seasons close in most waters (exceptions p.11-12 and p. 25)
- 3/15 – Sturgeon seasons close (see p.15 for legal waters and St. Clair possession dates)
- 3/20 – May use dip nets (smelt, suckers, bowfin, carp, gar, shad, goldfish) – see p.23 for hand nets
- 3/15 – Leftover Turkey and Hunt 234 on sale for ALL hunters (at 10:00 am)
- 3/31 – Hunt, Fish, and ORV Licenses expire (Fur Harvester is valid until April 30)
- 3/31 – Last day for ice shanties in the Upper Peninsula, see p. 62
- 3/31 - Squirrel, Early Crow, and Rabbit/Hare seasons close
- 3/31 – Last day of Raccoon and Otter trapping (For incidental Otter trapped in April, see p. 12)

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 cost estimates from consultant.
- Lime Island Harbor upgrade project: Received 5 bids for the project...all came in over budget and working with Planning Section for additional funding options/direction.
- Brimley Toilet/Shower building replacement: Construction continues.... block work is completed, and two of the three buildings are roughed in. Starting on rough in on West building this week. Mechanical room equipment is starting to be delivered and will be starting on install (water heaters, HVAC etc.). Project is still on schedule for completion date of June 22, 2022.
- Starting to contact interested candidates for summer positions
- Brimley has one Seasonal Ranger who will be coming back early for DNR/PRD Law Academy.
- The most senior Seasonal Ranger is staying on at Detour until the vacant Lead Ranger position is filled. This Ranger will maintain the Harbor Ice Suppression System, plow snow and complete winter administrative duties.
- Hiring Packet has been submitted to fill vacant Ranger A position at DeTour.
- Brimley: Campground has been closed since September 7th for construction of Toilet/shower buildings and will tentatively open by June 22, 2022.
- Algonquin Pathway has been busy with XC skiers.
- Conely Point BAS has been busy with Munuscong Bay ice anglers.

- Brimley Ranger has been busy plowing snow and grooming the ski trail at Algonquin Pathway.
- Detour Ranger has been monitoring and making necessary repairs to the Harbor Ice Suppression System and completing various administrative tasks.
- Supervisor and Staff have been planning/prepping for Spring/Summer 22' projects.

Fayette Historic State Park

- Townsite: General reactionary maintenance to window sashes, doors, locks, siding, etc.
- Park: Plowing, shoveling, begin remodeling of shop.
- Kerosene Lantern Light XC Ski/Snowshoe/Hike held January 29th. Roughly 150 guests stopped by and took the hike. Weather was perfect; no wind, mid-teens & a light snow falling all evening. →
- Camp nights – first full season of winter camping. 22 camp nights. →
- Not a lot of snow but able to get ski/snowshoe trails groomed & track set. →



Indian Lake State Park & Palms Book State Park

- Palms Book Septic replacement project is moving forward, the project team has chosen a concept to move forward with.
- Indian Lake State Park toilet building replacement / lagoon replacement project looking into the replacement of three toilet building with two new toilet shower buildings.
- A comprehensive inspection of the raft by the manufacturer is being recommended instead of a raft replacement at this time.
- Construction of railing along the walkway to the raft has been scheduled for September using the Western Upper Peninsula construction crew.
- Two Seasonal Ranger positions are in the process to be filled.
- Starting to recruit for STW 4's positions for the summer.
- Looks like another busy summer as we are receiving many calls/complaints that campground reservations for the summer are full.
- Covid issues have impacted the unit.



Tahquamenon Falls State Park

- Lower Falls Concession Store Remodel/Replacement project: After the construction bidding process was completed, Olsen & Olsen Construction was the chosen contractor for the project. They are scheduled to start construction in March.
- Lower Falls Boat Concession/Island redevelopment project: Olsen & Olsen continued working on ADA accessibility improvements on the lower falls island until mid-December when the snow and ice finally halted work for the winter. Equipment and materials have been stored; construction will resume in the spring when weather conditions allow.
- Whitefish Point Harbor Redevelopment study: Nearing completion.
- Park Rangers have shifted into winter operations. Snowplowing, snow blowing, shoveling, grooming ski trails and maintenance on summer equipment will be on the priority list the next couple of months.
- Seasonal Park Rangers went on layoff Nov 28th.
- A total of **223** camping nights in the lower falls Hemlock Campground for December & January. We had 22 occupied nights in the Lodge

- The ski/snowshoe trails are groomed and ready for the winter use season.
- Snowmobile trails that run through the park are open and are being used.

Straits State Park & Mackinac Island State Harbor

- Mackinac Island comfort station hoping to go out for bids in Spring (early April 2022)
- Father Marquette continue working on design of learning commons and pow wow grounds.
- All seasonal staff on layoff until mid-March

Muskallonge Lake State Park

- No major projects or construction occurring currently.
- All seasonal staff currently on layoff
- Hosted the Tahquamenon Sled Dog Race January 8th.

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

Unit Update

- Members of the Lake Superior Basin Team (Managers and Research) are in the drafting stages of the Lake Superior Management Plan. Public input will be continuously sought as the plan is being developed.
- State Land Review-Group 4. This effort has been led by Forest Resources Division. Like all divisions, Fisheries Division provided a review and comments on each parcel across the state. Fisheries staff also participated in the public meetings offered in January.
- Field staff has completed data entry and fish structure aging collected during survey work completed in 2021. Staff are now moving onto equipment maintenance.
- Staff attended the Lake Superior Technical Committee virtual meeting. The Technical Committee is comprised of agencies under the guidance of the Lake Superior Committee overseen by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Topics during the January meeting included lake trout distribution and movement study, splake introgression potential and management, sea lamprey control updates, fish community objective review, lake-wide agency updates, and lake sturgeon projects. For more information on the Lake Superior Technical Committee, visit the Great Lakes Fishery Commission website at www.glfc.org
- The Fisheries Habitat Grant, formerly the Aquatic Habitat Grant, Dam Management Grant, and Habitat Improvement Account, has accepted full proposals from project partners statewide for the 2021 submission cycle. A total of 30 projects were submitted statewide and 27 were invited for the full proposal stage. Six projects were submitted by partners for the Upper Peninsula. Announcements of awards will be in April.
- Staff participated in the Lake Superior Basin Team. This is an internal Fisheries Division meeting which makes decisions on management, research, and propagation within the Lake Superior Management Unit. Topic highlights included splake fertility and sterility evaluation, Fisheries Division owned dams review, Fisheries Order change proposals, steelhead broodstock development, and Lake Superior Fisheries Management Plan updates.
- Staff is preparing for the Black Lake sturgeon season. Season begins at 8am on Saturday, February 5th. This year registration is completely online. The 2022 season allocation on Black Lake is 6 fish. The season will end when one of two scenarios occurs: the sixth fish is harvested or five fish have been harvested at the end of any fishing day.
- Muskellunge harvest registration update: As of February 3, 2022, 18 muskellunge have been harvested for the 2021/22 fishing season. At the end of January last year, a total of 36 fish were harvested. For the entire 2019/20 fishing season a total of 23 muskellunge were harvested. The statewide harvest season for muskellunge runs through March 15.