



Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: December 2024 (Information current as of 12/5/2024)

This document is provided by Michigan DNR staff as a supplement for Western UPCAC Council members. Please email or call with any questions.

Meetings/Events/Press Releases

Upcoming DNR Public Meetings

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

December 5	Michigan State Waterways Commission, 10:45am (517-285-0747)
December 5	Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup, 1:30pm (517-331-6219)
December 10	Trails Advisory Council, 1pm (517-331-6219)
December 10	Accessibility Advisory Council, 1:30pm (517-897-6311)
December 11	Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, 9am (517-284-5954)
December 11	State Parks Advisory Committee, 2pm (517-284-6135)
December 12	Natural Resources Commission, Lansing, 9:30am (nrc@michigan.gov)
December 12	Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, Virtual, 6pm (906-226-1331)
December 13	Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council, 10am (517-582-3204)
December 19	Board of Foresters, 9am (989-370-9557)
January 9	Natural Resources Commission, Lansing, 9am (nrc@michigan.gov)

UP State Park & State Sponsored Activities

Please check with the state park before attending activity for any scheduling changes. For all activities: [DNR Things to Do Calendar](#)

January 25	Fayette Historic State Park – Lantern-lit Trail
January 25	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park- Lantern-lit Guided Snowshoe Hike
February 1	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park- Lantern-lit Guided Snowshoe Hike
February 7-9	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park- Midwest Telefest 2025
February 8	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park- Lantern-lit Guided Snowshoe Hike
February 15	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park- Lantern-lit Guided Snowshoe Hike
February 22	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park- Winter Snowburst Carnival

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- December hunting and trapping opportunities (12/3/24)
- DNR staffers to answer viewer questions on 'Ask the DNR' on WNMU-TV13 (12/3/24)
- DNR announces 2025 Community Forestry Grant recipients (11/19/24)
- Give back this season: Get your deer tested (11/27/24)
- DNR's 2024 holiday gift guide: Ideas for outdoor adventurers on your list (11/26/24)
- Weigh in on state forest plan at December webinars (11/26/24)
- Registration open now for this winter's 'Becoming an Outdoors Woman' weekend workshop in the UP (11/26/24)
- DNR News: Wild turkeys, snowmobile season, state park webinars and more (11/25/24)

- Showcasing the DNR: Motus wildlife tracking in Michigan (11/22/24)
- DNR announces 2025 Community Forestry Grant recipients (11/19/24)
- NotMISpecies webinar: Invasive purple jewelweed in the Upper Peninsula (11/18/24)
- Parks, timber, trails and more on agenda for DNR December meetings (11/18/24)
- DNR News: Fall hunts, birding basics, fun 5Ks, new 'Wildtalk' and more (11/13/24)
- Mark your race calendars with these three 5Ks (11/7/24)
- Firearm deer season's five-day quiet period begins Sunday (11/7/24)

Grant Contacts

For grant information, to go: [DNR Grants](#)

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

Eastern UPCAC Update

The **Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council** met virtually on December 2. Agenda topics included a preliminary overview of the 2024 deer season, an update of this year's fire season and a snowmobile season preview. Additional business included reports from various division staff, old business items, subcommittee reports and approval of 2025 meeting dates and locations. **The next meeting of the group will be on February 19 in a virtual format.**

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

November NRC Meeting Recap – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met on the downtown campus of Lansing Community College on November 7.

The only major action: Resource Deputy Shannon Lott – acting for Director Scott Bowen -- approved seven land transactions. Details of those transactions can be found [in the NRC agenda online](#).

At the beginning of the meeting, Law Enforcement Division Chief Jason Haines presented lifesaving awards to Conservation Officers Brad Bellville and Jimmy Garrett. On Jan. 20, 2024, the two were patrolling Roscommon County when they received a call from central dispatch that a 79-year-old man was unconscious, not breathing and in need of medical attention. Within two minutes, the COs arrived on scene and were met by the victim's wife, who informed them that her husband was in the bathroom. The officers found the victim lying on his back, half in and out of the bathtub. A neighbor was giving compressions. They removed the victim from the bathtub, laying him on the floor, and began assessing his vital signs noting a weak pulse and no breathing. CO Bellville began chest compressions as CO Garrett prepared the AED pads for placement. The AED delivered a shock to the victim. CO Bellville then continued compressions while CO Garrett administered breaths. As the officers continued to provide life-giving aid, a second, third, and finally, a fourth shock were delivered. Upon delivering the fourth shock, the Houghton Lake Ambulance Authority arrived and took over care. Before leaving the scene, the victim's heart was beating, and he was breathing. Unfortunately, the victim passed away four days later. Nevertheless, the officers were recognized for their fast action in a desperate and difficult situation.

Fisheries Committee

Marc Gaden and Dan Zielinski of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission gave a presentation on FishPass. Marc gave an overview of Great Lakes fisheries management and the origins of the Commission. Dan then discussed FishPass. FishPass will replace the deteriorating Union Street Dam on the Boardman River in Traverse City with a new barrier to all fish. The barrier will have the ability to sort and selectively pass desirable fish species while blocking harmful invaders like sea lamprey. Fully automated selective passage is the long-term goal of the project. Passage of any fish during the initial 10 years will be coordinated with fishery management agencies, including the DNR, limited in number, and restricted to fishes native to the upper Great Lakes.

Paul Rose, chair of the Upper Black River Council, discussed beaver management on the Upper Black River in Cheboygan, Montmorency, Otsego and Presque Isle counties. Beaver dams are becoming an increasing problem for the fishery, Paul said. He discussed possible solutions.

Bryan Burroughs, executive director of Michigan Trout Unlimited, discussed Michigan TU's comments on DNR's new policy on Management of Adverse Beaver Impacts on Trout Populations.

Finally, Mark Luttenton, interim director of the Grand Valley State University Annis Water Research Institute, provided ecological context on trout and beaver interactions on the Au Sable River.

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 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).

Division Updates

Law Enforcement Division (LED): Lt. Ryan Aho, District 1 Law Supervisor– Western UP

- **CO Pete Shambaugh and Lt. Ryan Aho** were patrolling Ontonagon County checking hunters on the opening day of firearm deer season as they came out of the woods. While talking to a pair of hunters, the COs observed a four-wheeler with two occupants coming out of the woods. The individual on the back of the machine did not have a helmet and was holding an uncased firearm. The individual quickly attempted to unload the firearm. A citation was issued for having a loaded/uncased firearm on an ORV. Warnings were given for riding double and no helmet. While on the same patrol, CO Shambaugh and Lt. Aho stopped an ORV for the occupants riding double. Upon contact, the riders explained they were just stopped by other officers. The second four-wheeler broke down and they were nearly out of gas and not going to make it to a gas station. The COs confirmed they were out of gas and went the nearest gas station and brought them back a few gallons so they could make it home.
- **COs Pete Shambaugh and Ethen Mapes** were patrolling state land in Ontonagon County. The COs contacted an individual on a narrow trail on the state land and during the contact, it was discovered that the individual had a cased but loaded firearm in his truck. A citation was issued.
- **CO Zach Painter** was on patrol in Gogebic County and conducted a stop of a subject on an ORV for operating without a helmet and for operating during quiet hours of the firearm deer season. It was also observed that the operator had failed to license his ORV. Enforcement action was taken for the violations.
- **CO Ethen Mapes** was patrolling Ontonagon County near Rockland when he spotted a truck pulling into a drive with deer in the back. CO Mapes stopped to congratulate the hunters on their successful hunts and check licenses. While talking to the hunters in the pickup, an ATV drove down the highway and pulled into the same drive. CO Mapes contacted the driver of the ATV to address operating an ATV on a state highway. Upon contact, CO Mapes discovered two untagged turkeys in the back of

the ATV which also had no stickers. The driver stated that he shot the turkeys when they came into his deer bait with a .22. Upon retrieval of the .22 from the subject's deer blind, several fresh grouse carcasses were located which the subject also admitted to shooting out of season. The hunter stated that he tries to abide by all DNR laws and regulations. Enforcement action was taken.

- The night prior to opening day of firearm deer season, **CO Steve Sajtar** received a whitefish complaint on the Menominee River. The complainant stated that two individuals were catching over their limit of whitefish and hiding the fish in a bucket. CO Sajtar responded to the scene and hid in the nearby bushes to observe the suspects. CO Sajtar observed one of the two suspects catch 12 whitefish. CO Sajtar contacted the suspect when he returned to the vehicle and found the suspect possessing two whitefish over his limit of 10. CO Sajtar seized the two whitefish for evidence and issued a citation for taking an over-limit. The two whitefish were donated to a family in need.
- On the night of November 15, **CO Steve Sajtar** observed a pickup truck without a registration plate travelling on a road in Menominee County. CO Sajtar conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and observed a 10-point antlered deer in the bed of the pickup. CO Sajtar contacted the operator and asked where his registration plate was. The operator replied, "Sorry officer, I just bought this truck a couple weeks ago and haven't had a chance to register it yet." The operator admitted to operating the vehicle without insurance and provided a title for the vehicle that was not yet signed or dated. CO Sajtar noticed an uncased rifle in the pickup and asked the operator to step out of the vehicle. CO Sajtar asked if the rifle was unloaded and the operator replied, "it's not unloaded." CO Sajtar removed the rifle from the vehicle and found it to be loaded in both the chamber and magazine. Next, CO Sajtar asked the operator and passenger who shot the deer that was in the bed of the truck. The passenger replied, "My grandpa shot it, he's just following us in his car." CO Sajtar obtained the grandpa's name and phone number, then called the grandpa. After introducing himself, CO Sajtar asked the grandpa who shot the deer that is in the bed of the pickup. The grandpa replied, "Um, I supposedly shot it." CO Sajtar told the grandpa to be honest. The grandpa then hung up the phone. CO Sajtar informed the operator and passenger they had one final opportunity to be honest. The passenger admitted to CO Sajtar that he shot the deer earlier that night without a license and tagged the deer with his grandpa's tag. The passenger admitted to using his grandpa's senior resident kill-tag because the passenger did not want to purchase a non-resident kill-tag after moving to Wisconsin. After a brief investigation, CO Sajtar learned the deer was shot with another rifle at a nearby residence. CO Sajtar followed the vehicle to the residence, seized the unlawfully taken deer, the rifle used to shoot the deer, and the empty cartridge from the rifle. The vehicle operator received multiple citations for traffic violations and possessing a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle. The passenger received multiple citations for borrowing the tag of another and taking a deer with no valid license. Restitution for an unlawfully taken or possessed 10-point antlered deer is \$7,000.
- In Menominee County, **CO Steve Sajtar** observed a vehicle parked unlawfully across a county road adjacent to a corn field. As CO Sajtar neared the parked vehicle, the vehicle drove off. CO Sajtar followed the vehicle for a short distance and conducted a traffic stop after observing the vehicle cross the centerline several times. While talking with the operator, CO Sajtar noticed an open firearm case in the back seat. With the operator's consent, CO Sajtar checked the firearm case and found a loaded .270 Winchester rifle. A citation was issued for transporting a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle. Immediately after clearing the initial traffic stop, CO Sajtar witnessed another vehicle travelling over the centerline of the same county road. CO Sajtar conducted a traffic stop for the lane violation and found a loaded 6.5 Creedmoor rifle in the vehicle. Another citation was issued for transporting a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.
- **CO Steve Sajtar** received a complaint of a pickup blocking a state forest road in Menominee County. CO Sajtar arrived on scene to find the pickup parked in a manner that hindered public access. After following the forest road a short distance, CO Sajtar located the owner of the vehicle deer hunting over an unlawful quantity of bait. The suspect was unable to exhibit his hunting licenses due to leaving them in his vehicle. Further up the road, CO Sajtar located the suspect's wife deer hunting over another unlawful quantity of bait and making use of an illegal blind. Multiple verbal warnings and several citations were issued.
- In Menominee County, **CO Steve Sajtar** responded to a domestic violence call where an intoxicated male had threatened to kill his girlfriend and her two-year-old child with a .22 LR rifle. After calling 911, the girlfriend had locked herself in a bedroom with the child. The rifle was in another bedroom and the male party was reported to be inside the house breaking things. CO Sajtar and a deputy arrived on scene together and made entry into the house. The male party was located and placed into custody without incident. The rifle was seized for evidence. The male party was lodged at the Menominee County Jail on charges of felonious assault and domestic violence.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** received a call on November 10 from a bow hunter in his blind who stated he just witnessed his neighbor shoot a deer with a rifle right in front of him. The bow hunter stated the gunshot came from the neighbor's residence. CO VanWagner arrived on scene and located a dead 7-point buck, which had an entry wound consistent with that of a rifle bullet. The neighbor was interviewed and fully confessed to shooting the buck with his .300 Win Mag prior to rifle season. Evidence was seized and a report was sent to the Iron County Prosecutor's Office for review.

- On opening day of firearm deer season, **CO Alex VanWagner** observed a vehicle operating on the ORV trail in Iron County with an expired plate. A traffic stop was initiated, and upon contact with the occupants, an uncased rifle was observed in the passenger seat of the vehicle. A citation was issued for the uncased firearm and verbal warnings were issued for multiple motor vehicle violations.
- Near the end of shooting hours on opening day of firearm deer season, **CO Alex VanWagner** checked a location with a lot of hunting activity in Iron County. Upon arrival, CO VanWagner observed headlights from an ATV approaching the road. The ATV had two subjects on it with no helmets, no ORV registration, both in possession of uncased rifles, and a doe strapped down on the front of the ATV. The subjects were contacted regarding the violations and the deer was legally tagged. Citations were issued to each subject for uncased firearm and verbal warnings were issued for the remainder of the violations.
- On opening day of firearm deer season, **CO Alex VanWagner** observed a hunter in a clear cut on Commercial Forest Land in Iron County. Upon contact with the subject, he admitted he shot an 8-point earlier that morning and tagged it with his single deer license. The hunter went back out and sat in the clear cut continuing his hunt with no valid deer license. CO VanWagner helped the hunter drag his buck back to the vehicle, addressed the violation, and issued a citation.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** responded to a report of a hunter who fell from his hunting blind in Iron County on opening day of firearm deer season. Dispatch advised a 77-year-old hunter had fallen and possibly broke his hip. Upon arrival, it was determined that the hunter exited his blind to head back to camp. He stepped onto the porch of his elevated blind and the boards broke, causing him to fall through. His friend went to check on him due to him being late to camp. The hunter was found lying beneath the blind and reported a great amount of pain in his right hip area. CO VanWagner, along with EMS personnel and DNR fire officers, loaded the subject onto a portable transport unit and carried the subject out of the woods to the ambulance. The subject was transported to the hospital for further evaluation.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** followed up on a complaint in Iron County on the opening day of firearm deer season. An ATV was observed operating on state land in an area not allowed with a passenger, both were not wearing helmets. Contact was made and a citation was issued.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** was patrolling federal forest roads in Iron County and contacted a vehicle road hunting. Upon contact with the subjects in the van, an uncased rifle was observed between the driver and passenger. The violation was addressed, and a citation was issued.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** observed a vehicle parked near an intersection after sunset in Iron County and stopped to check on the motorists. The two male subjects in the vehicle stated they were talking on the phone before heading to camp. While talking with the subjects about their hunts, two uncased rifles were discovered in the backseat of the vehicle. The violations were addressed, and a citation was issued.
- **COs Alex VanWagner and Phil Helminen** responded to Bates in Iron County after a report of a female driver almost running the caller off the road and crashing into a sign. The female and a juvenile, determined to be her seven-year-old daughter, were observed leaving the scene and the vehicle was removed by a third party. Contact was made with the caller and the vehicle was located at a residence near the scene of the crash. Interviews were conducted with the female driver and third party, and the female subject was arrested and lodged for operating a vehicle while intoxicated with child endangerment. A report will be sent to the Iron County Prosecutor's Office for review.
- **CO Jared Ferguson** was patrolling Dickinson County for late hunters when he observed a truck struggling to keep on his side of the road. CO Ferguson observed an uncased loaded rifle in the front seat. A citation was issued for loaded / uncased firearm in a motor vehicle.
- **CO Jared Ferguson** was called by an anonymous complainant regarding the taking of deer without a license. CO Ferguson located the suspect and during the interview, she confessed to buying a license after she shot the deer. A complaint warrant will be done.
- **CO Jared Ferguson** was heading home for the night when a vehicle passed him at a high rate of speed and driving recklessly. CO Ferguson made a traffic stop and found an uncased / loaded firearm in the front seat. A citation was issued for the uncased / loaded and a warning for 77 mph in a 55-mph zone.
- **COs John Kamps and Jackson Kelly** responded to a hunter harassment and malicious destruction of property complaint in Marquette County. The COs were notified by the complainant that the suspect had flipped over his hunting blind and got into a verbal altercation. When the COs arrived on scene, the suspect was sitting in his vehicle. The COs noticed there was a shooting lane cut from the suspect's driver's side window to a bait pile and a loaded hunting rifle in the passenger seat. The suspect soon admitted that he had not purchased a hunting license. The suspect was issued citations for loaded firearm in a motor vehicle, hunt deer without a license, and he was asked to leave the property. The complainant did not press charges for the flipped over blind.
- **CO John Kamps and Sgt. Mark Leadman** contacted a hunter who was slowly rolling down a state land two-track. During a routine check, a loaded 30-06 rifle was found within the vehicle. A citation was issued for a loaded gun in a motor vehicle.
- **COs John Kamps, Cody Smith and Jackson Kelly** ran a deer decoy in a known complaint area. A vehicle was stopped after the passenger of the vehicle pointed a rifle out the window at the decoy. When asked for a hunting license, the individual stated

that he had left it at camp before taking a ride to town. When the individual realized that CO Kamps was checking his license status, he confessed that he didn't have a license. A citation was issued for uncased gun in a motor vehicle and for hunting without a license.

- **COs Cody Smith, Jackson Kelly, and John Kamps** conducted a deer decoy patrol at a location that COs had identified as an area frequented by road hunters. Soon after setting up the decoy, the COs witnessed a pickup truck stop in front of the decoy, the driver pointed a hunting rifle out the window and aimed at the decoy. The COs began to yell at the hunter not to shoot. The hunter didn't respond. The COs continued to yell and approach closer until they were almost at his vehicle, at which point the hunter shot at the decoy. The hunter then noticed the COs and immediately stated that he knew better and shouldn't have done it. The hunter was issued a citation for loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.
- **COs Jackson Kelly and John Kamps** stopped a four-wheeler for operating with two passengers on a single seat ORV and for not wearing helmets. During a routine hunting check, the COs also found a loaded rifle within the passenger's case. A citation was issued for loaded gun in a motor vehicle.
- **COs John Kamps and Jackson Kelly** followed up on a suspected illegal deer. The COs interviewed two suspects who admitted that one had shot an 8-point without a license in his possession and the other shot another buck without having purchased a license. The suspects then purchased a combo tag so that they could tag the deer and bring it to the possessor. Law enforcement action was taken including seizing the illegal deer which was donated to three families.
- **CO Jeremy Sergey, Sgt. Mark Leadman, and CPL Brett DeLonge** were patrolling Kate's Grade when CO Sergey was talking to an individual driving by in a truck. CO Sergey discovered the individual had a loaded rifle in the back seat of the truck. A citation was issued for transporting a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.
- **CO Jeremy Sergey and Sgt. Mark Leadman** were patrolling Kate's Grade when an individual approached them and stated his dad was hunting on state land and some nearby camp owners surrounded his dad's truck with large logs. The COs hid in the brush by the victim's truck while the victim continued to deer hunt. Three individuals came out of the woods, two of them holding rifles. They began looking into the window of the victim's truck. The COs ordered the men to put their guns on the ground. The individual without a rifle made movements reaching behind his sweatshirt. CO Sergey ordered him to turn around and interlace his fingers behind his head. CO Sergey located a pistol tucked into his waistband. CO Sergey placed the individual in handcuffs and Sgt. Leadman secured the pistol. One of the individuals admitted to placing the logs around the victim's truck. All three men were wearing hunter orange but none of them had hunting licenses on them. Two of them stated they purchased hunting licenses online, but their identification was back at camp and their kill-tags had not arrived in the mail yet. The camp owner stated they believed the property belonged to him. The men and the COs went to the camp. COs John Kamps and Jackson Kelly arrived a short while later for backup. There was an untagged spike horned deer hanging from a buck pole. The individual who placed the logs around the victim's truck stated he shot the deer, but his kill-tags had not arrived in the mail yet. CO Sergey discovered he purchased a combination tag, which would only allow him to shoot deer with at least three points on one side. The third individual also did not have his kill-tags with him, and he had a warrant for his arrest out of Mackinac County. The individual who had a pistol had not purchased a hunting license of any kind. All firearms and the deer were seized. CO Sergey donated the illegally harvested deer to an individual. Multiple citations were issued. The camp owner was educated that he did not own the state property going to his camp but did have an easement through the state land.
- **COs Jeremy Sergey and Jackson Kelly** were patrolling the Marquette/Dickinson County line when a vehicle slowly passed by them. CO Sergey could see a rifle in the passenger seat with the muzzle pointed towards the passenger door. CO Sergey told the driver to stop. The driver stated the rifle was loaded and the safety was off. A citation was issued for having an uncased and loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.
- **CO Jeremy Sergey** was patrolling near Goose Lake Road when he checked an individual who stated he used to be a hunter safety instructor. The individual had two rifles in the truck and said he was going to the firearm range. CO Sergey checked both rifles and found one of them to be loaded. A citation was issued for having a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

Fisheries Division: Darren Kramer, Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit

Management Unit Update

- Cory Kovacs was promoted to the Lake Superior Unit Manager in November and started in his new role on November 25. Cory was previously the Fisheries biologist in Newberry where he has been since 2011. Fisheries Division has begun the process of backfilling the Fisheries biologist position Cory vacated with his promotion.
- Lake Superior Unit management staff met with the Sands Township board to discuss Strawberry Lake fisheries management. Strawberry Lake, located on the Marquette County fairgrounds, has been stocked annually with brook trout since 1991. Netting surveys conducted since 2012 have captured brook trout growing slowly and not achieving the 15-inch minimum size limit regulation. A recommendation was made to the Sands Township board to

change the regulation for Strawberry Lake from Type-D to Type-A. The change would reduce the minimum size limit for brook trout from 15 inches to 10 inches and would allow for more harvest opportunity. This proposal will be vetted through spring public meetings.

- Lake Superior and Northern Lake Michigan Unit staff completed annual inspections on Fisheries Division owned dams across the eastern and western UP. These annual inspections are required per our dam safety standards and by EGLE.
- The Northern Lake Michigan Unit is in the process of hiring a technician supervisor with the retirement of Mark Mylchreest (34 years with the DNR-Congratulations!) in October. Interviews were held the first week of December.
- Lake Superior and Northern Lake Michigan Unit field staff completed various inland trout lake surveys in Iron and Maquette counties. These lakes are stocked with trout and are being evaluated as part of the management prescription recommendations. These evaluations are helpful in determining stocking success and appropriateness of management.
- Lake Superior Unit staff assisted the Tribal Coordination Unit sampling the following lakes for walleye recruitment: West Lake (Dickinson County); Vermilac Lake (Baraga County); and Lake Independence, Witch Lake, Deer Lake and Fish Lake (Marquette County).
- Lake Superior Unit field staff helped Trout Unlimited and U.S. Forest Service staff plant trees along the East Branch Ontonagon River in the old lakebed of Lower Dam to promote bank stability of the recently reclaimed river channel.
- Lake Superior Unit field staff worked with Marquette State Fish Hatchery staff to stock Lost Lake (Keweenaw County) with 600 fingerling brook trout. Lost Lake is a Type-D trout lake.
- A fisheries survey was conducted on Trout Creek Pond (Ontonagon County) by Lake Superior Unit field staff. Brook trout up to 11 inches were sampled, along with yellow perch and white suckers.
- In early November, EGLE required the DNR to provide information related to the failure of the Black River Lake Dam in June 2024. It is anticipated that EGLE and DNR will meet in the coming months to discuss conditions of future permits at the site to better understand the possible outcomes of dam repair or dam removal. A letter was provided to the Gogebic County Commissioners and the Gogebic Conservation District informing them of the status of the situation and noting future engagement would occur once the options for permitting were better understood from EGLE.
- Lake Superior Unit staff responded to a constituent inquiry regarding a fish mortality event on the Middle Branch of the Ontonagon River below Agate Falls. The crew collected eight brown trout which appeared to have lesions and were moribund. Specimens were sent to the Michigan State University Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory for testing. During the sample collect, no rainbow trout or brook trout showed any signs of lesions or fungal infections. Test results were pending at the time of the preparation of this report. Any questions of the event should be directed to Jeremiah Blaauw, Fish Health Specialist for Fisheries Division.
- Lake Superior Unit staff have been preparing work plans for the 2024 survey year. Work plans will entail netting surveys on lakes, electrofishing surveys on streams, habitat assessments, and other statewide priorities. The final work plan for the Lake Superior Management Unit will be considered with plans from the DNR-Tribal Coordination and Northern Lake Michigan Management Units.
- The Fisheries technician position for Baraga was posted in early November. Applications are being reviewed with plans to have interviews offered in the next month or so.

Fish Production Section Update

- Great Lakes muskellunge production at the Thompson State Fish Hatchery was outstanding this year! The production goal was 40,000. Although the final tally has not yet been calculated exactly, the hatchery staff was able to produce around 48,000 fall fingerling muskellunge and were stocked statewide. The staff is also holding an additional 3,000 muskellunge for yearling production for development of our inland broodstock lakes. The Thompson Hatchery was assigned all the fall fingerling muskellunge production in 2024 due to much needed construction being completed at Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery. Wolf Lake staff collected eggs, incubated fry, and spent time early tank rearing the muskellunge until they were transferred to the Thompson Hatchery ponds for growing out. Great teamwork by all the Fish Production staff from Wolf Lake and Thompson Hatcheries!

Office of Public Lands – Tori Irving, UP Field Analyst

- Keweenaw: Several public engagement opportunities are scheduled in the Keweenaw Peninsula, focusing on the General Management Plans for Fort Wilkins and the Keweenaw Point state lands, as well as The Nature Conservancy's Keweenaw Heartlands Project. Staff from the OPL and multiple divisions remain actively involved in both initiatives, ensuring that communication is coordinated and effective between the projects.
- Newberry Mass Timber Visit: Office of Public Land staff member Tori Irving (UP field analyst) and Marley Wolff (MI Healthy Climate Corps member), along with Sandra Lupien (MassTimber@MSU) were on-site at the Newberry Customer Service Center where community members and representatives from the forest products industry explored the building's interior, admiring the use of mass timber throughout. During the tour, staff engaged with attendees and answered questions about the building. Participants were particularly interested in the potential for Michigan mass timber and the impact on the regional economy.

Facilities and Operations Division: Sean Sundholm, WUP Administrative Area Manager

- A new roofing project for the crystal falls field office has kicked off with a walk-through with 5 interested professional services contractors (PSCs) showing up on site. UP Architects and Engineers (UPAE) was the best value bidder chosen for phase 100 study. Once a design has been accepted, we can pursue contractors for the job.
- Staff are cresting the peak of the 2024 license season and are wrapping up the end of firearm deer season. Trail permits, ORV license and state park passport sales have tapered off a little from the peak numbers of spring/summer.
- Marquette and Escanaba Customer Service Centers (CSC) had a facility assessment done mid-September, in which energy efficiency areas are identified and could help the DNR lower energy usage. Awaiting the recommendations from the contractor that performed the energy assessment.
- Along with daily operations, many of our western UP staff have been engaged on committees looking at future customer service needs.
- Area managers have been working on developing and completing multiple minor construction projects (LED lighting, solar applications, general facility renovations, health, and safety improvements) throughout the state.
- Our Escanaba CSC has recently filled the vacant general office assistant position with Rhonda Schermer who recently moved to the UP from Arizona. Rhonda had worked for two different state departments while in Arizona (Transportation and Corrections). Welcome aboard Rhonda!

Forest Resources Division: Tom Seablom, Western UP District Supervisor

- Field work for the 2027 Year of Entry (YOE) inventory season has started. Staff have been trained in an upgraded inventory system. The Baraga Open House is scheduled for May 20, 2025 at the Baraga Customer Service Center. Open House and Compartment Review schedules for the 2027 YOE are posted online under the public input section along with other state forest inventory information at www.michigan.gov/forestinput.
- As of December 2, 314 timber sale contracts are open in the western UP. This represents 1,039,640 cords of timber on 57,341 acres, valued at approximately \$36.9 million. Included in this are 29 Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) sales representing 141,584 cords of timber on 7,691 acres, valued at approximately \$1.3 million. As of December 2, 9 sales are available in the western UP for the minimum advertised price. This represents 16,972 cords of timber. Find more information on state forest timber sales, go to www.michigan.gov/timber.
- Western UP units are reporting 32 active timber sales totaling about 5,010 acres. Units report higher interest in hardwood sawtimber sales and slowing sales in the aspen pulp and bolts.
- Commercial forest staff are working on inspections of already enrolled parcels for compliance. With the retirement of Gary Willis, Jason Caron is filling in for that position until that vacancy is filled. Starting January 1, open enrollment for the Commercial Forest Program begins and continues until April 1. For more information on the Commercial Forest Program, go to www.michigan.gov/commercialforest.
- Fire protection staff responded to 31 wildfires for a total of 125 acres. The month of October normally produces very few fires. Normally, we are at the end of the fire season and fire resources are transitioning into a much-deserved break from fire activity. That did not occur this year. This year, we entered the fall season with drought conditions prevailing. Dry fuel conditions combined with active winds and warmer than normal temperatures produced an abnormally active fall fire season. Firefighting resources from across the state were engaged in fire suppression activities late into the season. Rain finally moved in to end the fire season for the year in early November. In the coming months, firefighters will be refurbishing equipment and supplies readying themselves for the spring of 2025.
- The forest health program reports oak wilt was detected in southwest Marquette County for the first time last summer, about 25 miles from known infections in Iron County. Follow-up surveys resulted in confirmation of oak wilt on state managed land a few miles away in northern Dickinson County. Treatment of some oak wilt infection pockets has already occurred. Additional treatment is planned to eliminate known oak wilt infections. Additional survey, treatment and outreach activities will occur next year. Locations where oak wilt has been confirmed can be viewed at: www.michigan.gov/foresthealth.

Parks & Recreation Division: Doug Rich, WUP District Supervisor

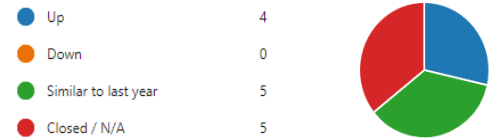
Camping

Bewabic State Park	ARPA planning continues, preparing for two of three campground loops to be closed for the 2025 camping season, due to paving and a new toilet/shower building. The construction pre-bid is December 3 rd .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Up 3 ● Down 0 ● Similar to the same period last y... 7 ● Closed / N/A 4
Escanaba Field Office	Escanaba FO staff has been working on shoreline armoring projects at JW Wells State Park, due to Lake Michigan erosion during high water events.	
Wells State Park	Campground shoreline erosion project started after Labor Day.	
Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew	The Lake Gogebic Crew repaired and replaced section of walls, ceiling and joists at the campground office at Twin Lakes State Park in September.	
Twin Lakes State Park	Twin Lakes was very busy through the end of the camping season, taking on some of the campers that would normally be at the other parks in the area that were closed for construction	
Baraga State Park	Camping was up approximately 10% for the year over 2024 and was our 2nd highest year ever in camp nights, 2021 was the highest. Big Eric's Bridge SFCG and King Lake SFCG stayed busy through September and into mid-October.	

Baraga Field Office	Hauled 1500 Tons of gravel to Craig Lake (Staged for National Guard). Built a parking lot on Nestoria Road for Teddy Lake winter parking.
Craig Lake State Park	From October 1 through October 14, 2024, there were 100 camp nights at Craig Lake State Park. 2024 is the first year the park has had actual attendance numbers, due to the park being on the central reservation system.

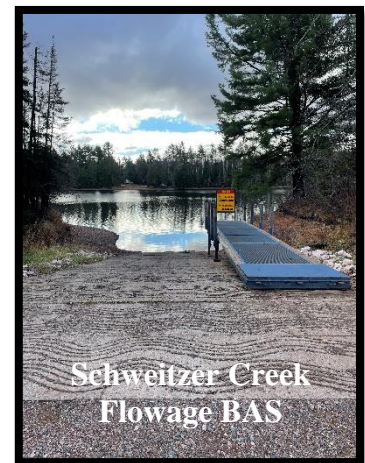
Overnight Lodging

Fort Wilkins Historic State Park	Our mini cabin is closed for the Toilet Shower construction project.
Baraga State Park	2024 was the second highest year in mini cabin nights. We were up 19% over 2023 and 8 nights from meeting our best year in 2021.



Boating Access Sites and Harbors

Baraga State Park	Milder temperatures had boaters out longer than usual. Courtesy piers were pulled in late October at most sites.
Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew	The Lake Gogebic Crew repaired and replaced wood bumpers and damaged wood sections on skid piers managed by Lake Gogebic in October.
Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park	Big Iron BAS has been having issues with silting being a river access site.
Van Riper State Park	The Van Riper unit found with low water levels; many sites saw less use. The longer boating season allowed for visitors to use some sites longer in the year. Piers were pulled at the beginning of November.



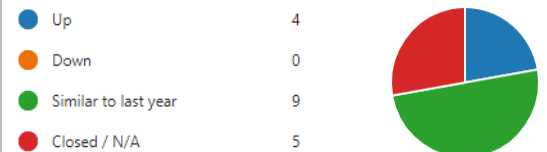
Trails



Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park	The Interior Crew have cleared, brushed and marked all 90+ miles of trail this season!
Baraga State Park	There was still a lot of use on ORV and non-motorized trails up through the end of October.
Little Presque Isle State Forest RA	Due to trail work being completed at Little Presque Isle within the Van Riper State Park unit, trail use has been down a little from this time period last year.
District Wide	All PRD units with snowmobile program duties have been working diligently to fully take over the program from FRD. With fiscal year 2025 the program solely rests on PRD.

Day Use

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park	Day use is peak in September and October for fall colors.
Bond Falls Scenic Site	The falls were very busy with color season. The were three use permit weddings, one in September and two in October. The site was closed for the season in late October.
Van Riper State Park	Day-use was up this fall due to a couple of Nature Awaits programs in the shelter building at Van Riper State Park.
Fort Wilkins Historic State Park	It was a very busy fall.
Baraga State Park	The day use was closed for the season on 11/1/24.
Baraga Field Office	Tree removal was started at the Houghton Douglas Falls and Veterans Memorial Scenic Site for the creation of a parking lot.
Michigan Iron Industry Museum	The museum will be opening back up in the next few weeks after being closed to replace furnaces within the building.





New condensing units at the Michigan Iron Industry Museum



Harlow Lake Fishing Platform at Little Presque Isle

Design, Construction, Capital Outlay and ARPA Projects

Lake Gogebic SP	ARPA funded construction on a new sewer and septic mound at the headquarters began in October.
McLain State Park	McLain's lagoon project is wrapped up for the winter and the campground will be open on time in May 2025.
Little Presque Isle State Forest RA	Trail work on existing trails is being completed as part of a contract at Little Presque Isle is slowly beginning to wrap up. Most of the trail work has been completed due to the fall weather holding out for the contractors. The Harlow Lake Fishing Pier platform has been constructed on top of its driven helical piles and is ready for railing this coming week. The parking areas have received additional gravel and have been graded and compacted. This one improvement alone will provide for a better visitor experience and the location has gained many additional parking spaces. Many areas of the trail have been hardened with a trail mixed type aggregate and a couple of bridges have received either replacement or much needed maintenance. Work will continue for the next few weeks and the contractors are anticipating getting wrapped up out there soon.
Menominee River State RA	ADA improvement project at Piers Gorge Unit continue in planning phase.
Fort Wilkins Historic State Park	West Campground toilet shower building under construction, Estimated completion Mid-June. Project on schedule. Campground office under construction, estimated completion 12/31. Project on schedule.
Bewabic State Park	Planning for major closure to campground and day use at Bewabic in 2025.
Van Riper State Park	In late September, there were 2 new gate valves installed in the Van Riper State Park central sewage system. Processes are moving to gain quotes for the remaining 3 in the same location within the sewage system.
Twin Lakes State Park	Twin Lakes is still in the design phases of the ARPA projects but planning to be closed for the 2025 use season.
Craig Lake State Park	Craig Lake State Park will have the opportunity to host the Michigan Army National Guard 2025 Innovative Readiness Training this coming spring, so planning is well underway for that.

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

Van Riper State Park	The three new rangers attended and completed the Operations Academy in Roscommon at the beginning of November. This four-week training provides learning in the field on skills needed to complete park operations. Skills such as electrical, plumbing, welding, and getting some seat time on a variety of tractors are all things rangers need to be knowledgeable in during their daily operations. Congratulations to Ellie Allen-Combs, Zach Steils, and Mitchell Travis for their willingness to learn and complete the 2024 Operations Academy.
Fort Wilkins Historic State Park	The General Management Process has been kicked off at Fort Wilkins and includes the new additional 20,000 acres acquisition at the tip of the Keweenaw. The additional acres can make Fort Wilkins Historic State Park the 3 or 4 th biggest state park in the system.
Bewabic State Park	The struggle continues in filling the vacant lead ranger position at Bewabic, position has posted five times. Please help spread the word that we need good people in Iron County.
McLain State Park	Michigan Tech Make a Difference Day assisted Twin Lakes in leaf clean up in the campground, with around 20 volunteers showing up to rake the leaves into piles for park clean up.
Baraga Field Office	Hired two new employees. Luke Berger and Avery Markham. The field office is back up to full staff.
Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park	There was a recent land exchange between the DNR and the Keweenaw Land Association Limited, which transferred more than 8,000 acres of mineral rights to the state that lie beneath the Porkies. The process took almost three years to complete with the deal closing in November. Considering Highland Copper wanting to mine beneath the Presque Isle Unit at the Porkies, this one step to protect and preserve. It doesn't reunite all the severed mineral and surface rights, but it a giant step forward.
Menominee River State RA	Seasonal ranger position is vacant at Menominee River State Recreation Area.

Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Chief

- Social Media Growth:
 - A video of a fish ladder posted Oct. 4 has more than 10 million views, generated almost 300 comments, been shared 1,400 times, and has nearly 55,000 likes. It has sparked a lot of curiosity and demonstrates how interested people are in seeing what we do.
 - Instagram account now has more than 100,000 followers – new record
 - A recent YouTube video (“Tree falls on man while deer hunting, man survives”) has performed well, gaining 14.2K views and 27 new subscribers.
- Preparing for Parks Visits: Able Eyes, a Lansing-based marketing firm, recently completed eight virtual tours of DNR-managed locations. The tours offer an immersive, 360-degree experience, allowing visitors to explore a variety of state parks, visitor centers and even a fish hatchery. Aimed at helping guests of all abilities prepare for their visit, the tours have been added to the [DNR's accessibility page](#) and respective web pages.
- Klondike Reef Expedition: Brad Parsons joined the Fisheries Division to film the crew and work of “The Klondike Reef Expedition” in late September. All 10 crew members were involved with the production, including on-camera interviews. The goal is to create an expedition film bringing the viewer along for the journey of the conservation work our staff does every day for the people and resources of the state. While on the trip, Brad also captured 360-degree video footage, which can be viewed on the [DNR's YouTube page](#).
- Nature Awaits Field Trips: DNR hosted more than 12,000 students from nearly 500 classes for state park visits this fall. One hundred percent of the fall teachers have said that they recommend the program and 100% have also said that they plan to attend the program again next year. October 9th will mark our first group of students that flew [by airplane](#) to their Nature Awaits field trip. The 4th graders from Beaver Island are visiting Young State Park.
- With Michigan School Data reporting 14% of students having a disability, we are finding ourselves doing programming on paved paths more often than expected and not able to visit deeper into forested habitats. We would like to assess which parks are more accessible, and which we could explore the possibility of paved pathways in the future.
- Michigan Alliance for Outdoor and Environmental Education Conference: DNR was well-represented at the state's primary environmental education conference in Grand Rapids in late September. Jonathan Massung and his team, along with John Zakrajsek from the Carl T, hosted a salmon fishing session on the Grand River. Although no salmon were caught during the program, everyone was smiling and gained confidence in their fishing abilities.
- Range Activities: Construction has begun on Ortonville and Pontiac Lake storage facilities. Planning underway with MUCC on improvements to the archery range facility at Cedar Lake Outdoor Center.
- DEER CAMP Coffee Partnership: The DNR has entered into an agreement with DEER CAMP Coffee to promote the department's wild-game donation program. Under the agreement, the company sells coffee in bags that are specially branded for the DNR's charitable program and donates a percentage of proceeds to the program. As part of the promotion, the company also includes a DNR deer patch in certain bags to further encourage sales. DEER CAMP Coffee is a Michigan company.

Wildlife Division: Dave Lemmien, UP Wildlife Supervisor

- **Fall Projects and Items**
 - Sharp-tailed grouse season ended on October 31. This was the 15th year since the season re-opened in 2010. There were approximately 5,000 acres of Hunting Access Program lands available that provide public hunting access on private lands for sharptail hunting during the season. Early indicators and anecdotal reports suggest that hunters were out on HAP lands once again, and some hunters reported good success in seeing birds.

Hunters come from all over Michigan and from other states to pursue sharptails in the far east UP. In 2023, 198 hunters reported over 1,900 observations and harvested 113 birds. In addition, woodcock numbers were reported to be spectacular in some areas of the east UP.

- DNR staff partnered with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and the Sault Saint Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to plant wild rice at several locations in the EUP in the fall of 2023 including Blind Sucker Flooding and Dollarville Flooding in Luce County, Black Creek Flooding in Mackinac County, and the Saint Mary's River system in Chippewa County. Wild rice is an important wildlife food and of high cultural and spiritual value to tribal members.
 - Outreach efforts: The Youth in the Outdoor survey is in its fourth year at the Newberry office. The purpose is to gather information about youth interests in outdoor pursuits and create opportunities to meet those needs. Participation in the survey has increased annually.
- **Deer**
- The Deer Camp Survey is a cooperative effort between the DNR and numerous UP hunters for the 16-day regular firearm season. This is a voluntary survey where interested participants provide sighting and harvest information during the firearm season. The survey is used to monitor deer sightings, harvest, and hunter opinions. A report of the results is sent out to participants in mid- winter. Survey materials were sent out to approximately 450 camp contacts before the 2024 firearm season.
 - Once winter settles in and deer migration has occurred, staff will begin the annual opportunistic winter deer track survey concentrating in and around Deer Wintering Complexes to indicate deer presence or absence in areas of the UP in an effort to continually monitor use of wintering areas.
 - Winter Conditions: This winter has started off with relatively mild temperatures and very limited snowfall in much of the EUP. DNR staff monitor snow conditions weekly from early November through early May using a system called SNODAS (Snow Data Assimilation System). This allows staff to see winter snow fluctuations and have a measure for potential impacts of winter on deer and other species at the end of season.
- **Bear Harvest Summary**
- 2024 UP bear harvest number is 1,394. 2024 harvest is 1% below the 2023 bear harvest, however, the 2024 UP harvest is 17% above the desired harvest which was 1,196.
 - 2024 NLP bear harvest number is 471. 2024 harvest is 6% above the 2023 bear harvest, however, the 2024 NLP harvest is 11% below the desired harvest which was 528.
 - High temperatures caused issues with meat spoilage. We'll be continuing to try to message to hunters the importance of planning ahead to get their bear field dressed, cooled, and processed as soon as possible to avoid losing any meat or the hide.
 - Overall, we had good hunter success across the state.
 - Hunter reports were positive about number of bears at baits despite the high temperatures.
 - Bears are in good condition going into dens.

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

Trail Specialist: Jeff Kakuk, Western Upper Peninsula

- Snowmobile Trails
 - Early snow and cold temperatures are setting up for great start to the season.
 - Several Trail segments have been impacted by infrastructure failures or winter timber harvesting. Clubs and DNR are continuing to work on connectivity solutions and options to ensure the trail system connectivity remains strong.

Trail Specialist: Rob Katona, Central Upper Peninsula

Project Name: ORV Route Improvements & Grading Alger, Delta, Marquette, Menominee, and Dickinson Counties	Project Name: AuTrain River Bridge Repairs ORV C Route & Snowmobile Trail 418	Project Name: Nahma Grade Multi-use Trail	Project Name: Clowry Grade Bridge #6
Description: Multiple projects for filling holes, grading, gravel surfacing, culvert replacement and minor bridge repairs with multiple grades planned in high use areas to help prevent rough routes.	Description: Perform phase 100 study to determine necessary repairs. Bridge was closed in 2024 due to slumping and safety concerns.	Description: Design and construction 3.7 mile multi-use Rail-Trail in Delta County work includes clearing, surfacing and culvert/bridge installation.	Description: Design and rehab/construction of multiple bridges on this designated ORV/snowmobile multi-use Rail-Trail in Marquette County.
Trail Use: Rail Trails & ORV Routes	Trail Use: Rail Trails	Trail Use: Rail Trails	Trail Use: Rail Trails
Anticipated Completion: Summer/Fall 2025	Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: Fall 2024	Anticipated Completion: TBD
Q1 Update: Working on work scopes requested funding to enter in PR database for approval. Projects will be advertised this spring.	Q1 Update: UPEA has ISID contract and has begun phase 100 study. Study should be completed this winter or early spring. Study will determine repairs needed and cost estimate.	Q1 Update: Project completed.	Q1 Update: Design for bridge #6 is at 100%. Will need additional funding for construction.

Project Name: Clowry Grade Bridges #1, #4, #5 & #7.	Project Name: Little Presque Isle Rec Area Improvements	Project Name: Days River Single Track Trail Construction	Project Name: Central U.P. ORV Route Dust Control
Description: Design and rehab/construction of multiple bridges on this designated ORV/snowmobile multi-use Rail-Trail in Marquette County.	Description: Trail repairs, parking improvements and boardwalk/bridge repairs throughout 42 sites at LPI recreation area and wetmore pond.	Description: Approximately 10 miles of single track trail construction designed for mountain bike use.	Description: Perform dust control at multiple sites on ORV routes to prevent dust caused by ORV traffic in residential areas and other areas meeting criteria. Two treatments planned one for spring and one late summer or early fall.
Trail Use: Rail Trails	Trail Use: Nonmotorized & mountain bike	Trail Use: Nonmotorized & mountain bike	Trail Use: ORV
Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: Spring 2025	Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: Summer/fall 2025
Q1 Update: Currently in a holding phase for moving into MDOT engineering/design.	Q1 Update: Finishing up pedestrian bridge B3 and will be adding an additional bridge to replace a failing one this work will occur next spring.	Q1 Update: Engineering/design nearly complete, working on EGLE permitting and environmental. MDOT and AECOM are working on remaining items. Tentative letting for bids is 2026.	Q1 Update: Working on adding additional treatment sites and executing the contract for early summer treatments.

Project Name: Tyoga Pathway Bridges	Project Name: LPI Songbird Trail and Harlow Creek Bridges	Project Name: Laughing Whitefish Falls Bridge	Project Name: Genes Pond Pathway
Description: Replace one bridge and replace or rehab second bridge both spanning the Laughing Whitefish River.	Description: Replace two popular pedestrian bridges on the LPI songbird trail and pathway to cabin #6 and north trail system.	Description: New pedestrian bridge construction on NCT over Laughing Whitefish River at the Laughing Whitefish Falls Natural Area.	Description: Construction of 1.75 mile accessible pathway with scenic overlooks adjacent to state forest campground located near Ralph in Dickinson County.
Trail Use: Nonmotorized	Trail Use: Nonmotorized	Trail Use: Nonmotorized	Trail Use: Nonmotorized

Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: TBD
Q1 Update: Currently in a holding phase for moving into MDOT engineering/design.	Q1 Update: Currently in a holding phase for moving into MDOT engineering/design.	Q1 Update: Currently in a holding phase for moving into MDOT engineering/design.	Q1 Update: Design is complete going through final MDOT process before letting which is now tentative for late 2025.

PROPOSAL: Hiawatha NF ORV Routes Proposal	PROPOSAL: Ishpeming-Negaunee-Sands ORV Routes Proposal	PROPOSAL: Negaunee ORV Extension	PROPOSAL: Little Lake – Chatham RR grade ORV Route Proposal	PROPOSAL: Eagle Mills-Gwinn-Little Lake ORV Route Proposal
Description: Nearly 100 miles of ORV routes proposed to be designated that would provide connectivity and looped riding across Marquette, Delta, Alger and Schoolcraft Counties.	Description: ORV routes that would provide connectivity to several communities and looped riding opportunities in central Marquette County. Proposals are pending securing land permissions and/or trail easements.	Description: Extend ORV route in Negaunee along IOHT to provide legal RR crossing and access to roads/routes open to ORVs to the east. Work will include new trail construction and large culvert installation. Snowmobile trail will be relocated off of non-motorized IOHT to new trail segment.	Description: ORV Designate segments of existing RR grade and county roads to provide ORV connectivity between Chatham and Little Lake and beyond.	Description: ORV Designate existing snowmobile trails that are already heavily used by ORVs. Designation will allow funding for maintenance and provide direction for community connectivity.
Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV & Snowmobile	Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV
Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: Spring 2025	Anticipated Completion: Fall 2025	Anticipated Completion: Summer 2025
Q1 Update: USFS provided mixed use analysis, however it was incomplete, waiting for follow-up information.	Q1 Update: Municipalities and MCRC are in support currently working with Cliffs.	Q1 Update: Work almost complete will need to do additional surfacing work and gate width mods at the RR crossing next spring.	Q1 Update: Remaining title analysis for determining ownership across several remaining gaps has been completed by our property analyst. Waiting on AG review and opinion of findings.	Q1 Update: Trail approved, 20 miles was signed and designated between Gwinn-Little Lake and Sands with work continuing on the remaining segment.