



Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

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

Upper Peninsula 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.

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

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 **NEW NUMBER! 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 NRC webpage (www.michigan.gov/NRC).

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 www.legislature.mi.gov.

Good Information to Know

DNR Public Meetings – Future Dates

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.

State Land Reviews

The DNR is hosting public meetings in late January to provide information on the state land review and opportunities for feedback on recommendations for DNR–managed public land ownership in 10 counties: Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Lapeer, Lenawee, **Marquette**, Monroe, Roscommon, Sanilac, Washtenaw. The state land review is being implemented as part of the 2013 DNR–managed public land strategy and involves review of certain parcels of state land to determine whether they are contributing strongly to the department’s mission. Visit the [DNR’s public land strategy webpage](#) for more information or contact Jessica Mistak at 906–280–8876.

Wednesday, January 26 6:00pm, [join Microsoft Teams meeting](#) or call (for audio only) +1 248–509–0316, 848419871#;
Conference ID: 848 419 871#

Thursday, January 27 2:00pm, [join Microsoft Teams meeting](#) or call (for audio only) +1 248–509–0316, 274951916#;
Conference ID: 274 951 916#

Other DNR Meetings

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|-------------|---|
| January 13 | Natural Resources Commission (call 517–599–1067) |
| January 18 | Wolf Management Advisory Council–Work Session, 1pm (call 517–599–1067) |
| January 19 | Wolf Management Advisory Council–Meeting, 9am (call 517–599–1067) |
| January 20 | Western UP Citizens’ Advisory Council Meeting, 6pm, Virtual (email dahlstromk@michigan.gov) |
| January 21 | Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council, 8:30am (call 517–284–5876) |
| January 26 | Wild Turkey Stakeholder Meeting |
| February 2 | Michigan State Waterways Commission, 9 am (call 517–285–0747). |
| February 8 | Michigan Iron Industry Museum Advisory Board, 3pm (call 906–475–7857) |
| February 9 | Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee, 2 pm (call 517–284–6135) |
| February 10 | Michigan Natural Resources Commission, 9am (call 517–599–1067) |
| 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 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) |

U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities

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

January 21	Van Riper State Park – Lantern Lit Snowshoe
January 22	Virtual Class – Feeding Winter Birds (\$15) https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79119_11859-573985--,00.html
January 28	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Advanced Snowshoe Hike
January 29	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Beginner Snowshoe Hike
January 29	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Lantern-Lit Trail ((snowshoers, hikers and cross-country skiers)
January 29	Fayette Historic State Park – Lantern-Lit Trail (snowshoers, hikers and cross-country skiers)
February 4	Van Riper State Park – Lantern Lit Snowshoe
February 4	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Advanced Snowshoe Hike
February 5	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Beginner Snowshoe Hike
February 5	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Lantern-Lit Trail ((snowshoers, hikers and cross-country skiers)
February 5	Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Guided Snowshoe Hike & Lantern-Lit Snowshoe Trail
February 11	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Advanced Snowshoe Hike
February 12	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Beginner Snowshoe Hike
February 12	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Lantern-Lit Trail ((snowshoers, hikers and cross-country skiers)
February 12	Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Guided Snowshoe Hike & Lantern-Lit Snowshoe Trail
February 18	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Advanced Snowshoe Hike
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 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)

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- State park jobs, free 'Wardens' episode, holiday décor cleanup (1/10/22)
- January 2022 hunting and trapping opportunities (1/7/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: Picturing the new year (1/6/22)
- DNR Get Involved: state park, trail volunteers, Kirtland's warbler license plate (1/6/22)
- Natural Resources Commission meets Jan. 13; agenda available online (1/6/22)
- EGLE settles with Verso Corp. for 2020 fish kill on Escanaba River in Delta County (1/5/22)
- Give feedback on Michigan's wolf management plan by Jan. 31 (1/4/22)
- Grow your appreciation for inland lakes with January online course (1/4/22)
- Spring turkey license application period open now (1/3/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: Despite pandemic, much to celebrate in outdoors, history (12/29/21)
- DNR reaches trail grooming agreement for eastern UP trails (12/22/21)
- Showcasing the DNR: Exploring the Michigan outdoors (12/22/21)
- DNR shares January meetings schedule, vacancy opportunities (12/21/21)
- DNR hiring for 2022 conservation officer academy (12/20/21)
- Winter fur harvesting opportunities (12/17/21)

Grant Contacts

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

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| ▪ Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant | Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, 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 |

Eastern UPCAC Update

The **Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council** met on December 6 and was scheduled for an in-person meeting in St. Ignace. However, due to extreme winter conditions that day, the meeting was held virtually. The following topics were included on the agenda and discussed:

- Introduction of new EUPCAC member David Lieble, Alger County, who replaces Olivia Castles who transferred to the WUPCAC
- DNR Division Reports by staff
- Wolf Management Advisory Council Meeting Update
- Cedar Regeneration Research Project
- Preliminary Deer Season Recap
- Eastern UP State Park Summer Season Summary
- Snowmobile Season Update
- Subcommittee Reports: Policy Impact: Policy Impact reviewed the DNR's response to the Council's October resolution regarding HB 5358, 5359, and 5360. The Policy Impact subcommittee a review of HB 4535; Ms. Haughey reviewed a DNR response indicating the subcommittee's comments will be taken under consideration.
- Public Comments: Comments were heard by George Lindquist pertaining to deer and wolves.
- 2022 meeting dates were approved. The next meeting will be on February 15 held virtually.

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

Division Updates

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

- **CO Zach Painter** was on patrol in Gogebic County and contacted a subject hunting over a large bait pile well over the legal two-gallon limit. When asked why he had so much bait out, the subject stated that he can only bait two to three times a week, so he puts a little extra out. Enforcement action was taken for the over bait.
- **CO Zach Painter** was on patrol in Gogebic County and contacted a subject hunting out of a permanent blind that had been left out for several years without any identification on it. The subject began to blame another subject hunting out of the same camp as him. CO Painter offered to drive the subject to his hunting partner's location to talk to him about it. The subject led CO Painter to his hunting partner's blind which was another illegal blind. There was litter covering the ground all around the blind from this year and years past. Enforcement action was taken with both subjects for the blinds and the litter.
- **CO Ethen Mapes** responded to a complaint of a hunter who had been cutting shooting lanes in the Porcupine Wilderness State Park. Upon contact the hunter admitted to cutting trees and was issued a citation for destroying trees on state land.
- **COs Ethen Mapes and Zach Painter** checked deer at two different meat processors in Ontonagon County and found two APR violations, tag sharing/ tag lending violations, as well as a license that had been bought after the hunter had shot his deer. COs Mapes and Painter have started interviews and have gained confessions on three illegal deer.

- **CO Ethen Mapes** gained three confessions on one case of an over-limit of deer and two cases of tag borrowing/lending. In the case of the over-limit of deer, a hunter posed proudly with his two bucks for a local buck pole. Upon further review, it was found that the hunter only purchased a single tag and should have only taken one deer. The hunter stated that he thought he had missed the first deer and found it dead while looking for the second deer he shot. A friend of his with a combination tag lent him one of his tags to “make it somewhat legal”. Charges are being filed with the prosecutor’s office for over-limit of deer, borrow tag of another, and lending a tag to another.
- **CO Brian Lasanen** was checking hunters coming back from their hunting stands near their camp. CO Lasanen contacted one hunter who did not have a helmet on. CO Lasanen then checked the hunters license and rifle. The hunter advised CO Lasanen the rifle was still loaded. A quick check revealed the rifle to be loaded. The hunter was cited for loaded rifle on an ORV.
- **CO Brian Lasanen** contacted a road hunter who advised he was just out for an afternoon cruise. CO Lasanen checked the hunters license and gun. The hunter advised the gun was unloaded. A check revealed the rifle to be loaded and one in the chamber. The hunter was ticketed for having a loaded rifle in motor vehicle.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** checked Paint Pond in Iron County to see if there were any anglers on the early ice. While approaching the access site, a truck was observed with sled tracks leading on to the ice. Using binoculars, CO VanWagner was able to observe two subjects fishing near the access site, along with multiple tip-ups. While walking out to contact the subjects, one of them reeled up his line. Upon contacting the subjects, there were still seven lines out. The subject who reeled up his line admitted to fishing with four lines currently, and also admitted to reeling up the line when he saw the CO approaching. A citation was issued for fishing with too many lines.
- **CO Jenni Hanson** was off duty hunting on her own private property when she heard a gunshot on her neighbors’ property. CO Hanson knew that no one was allowed to be hunting that land. Another neighbor had witnessed two men loading an 8-point deer into their vehicle. When encountered, the suspect gave a fake name and fled the scene at a high rate of speed. The suspect was identified and later interviewed, where he confessed to shooting the deer from the roadway and trespassing onto private property to retrieve the deer. Charges are being requested through the Gogebic County Prosecutor’s Office.
- **CO Jenni Hanson** discovered an unlabeled ground blind and a significant amount of bait on public land. CO Hanson contacted the hunter who admitted to putting down more than two gallons of bait. He was issued a citation for over-bait and given a verbal warning for the unlabeled ground blind.
- **CO Doug Hermanson** was patrolling southern Houghton County when he observed an ORV being operated during the prohibited hours. A stop was conducted, and contact was made with the operator. A check of the subject’s rifle found it to still be loaded. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Phil Helminen** obtained an arrest warrant for an individual for operating a privately owned cervid facility without a license. CO Helminen located the individual and arrested him on the warrant. The suspect was released on bond and given an appearance date to appear in the Dickinson County Court.
- **CO Phil Helminen and Sgt. Brain Bacon** responded to a call of a cub bobcat that had been captured. The individual reported finding the bobcat very weak and had several porcupine quills in it. The individual removed the quills. The bobcat was turned over to COs and transported to a rehabilitation center.
- **CO Jeffrey Dell** received a BOL for a vulnerable adult who had left his residence on foot two and half hours previously, not dressed for the single digit weather. CO Dell was able to locate the individual and turned him over to the Menominee County Sheriff’s Department who transported him to his residence. The individual appeared to have early onset of frostbite on his hands.
- **COs John Kamps and Jeremy Sergey** responded to a complaint of an individual who had an untagged deer laying on his front porch. The COs arrived at the residence to find the suspect fully dressed in hunting gear and preparing to go out hunting. The COs observed an untagged 10-pointer laying on the front porch covered in snow. When questioned about the deer the suspect stated that he shot the 10-point buck several days ago but due to various reasons, had not tagged it yet. The suspect had an unvalidated kill-tag for the deer on the kitchen counter and handed it to the COs. It was also determined that the suspect shot a 6-point deer and had it laying behind the house. The COs inspected the 6-point and determined that deer to be tagged, but it was also unvalidated. After additional questioning, the suspect admitted that he had gone out to his deer blind and hunted after shooting both

of his deer. The COs seized the 10-point deer, and two citations were issued for failing to affix and validate a kill-tag to each deer.

- **COs John Kamps and Cody Smith** were on patrol through state land when they come across a vehicle parked sideways in the roadway. When the driver saw the patrol vehicle, they straightened out the vehicle and got in their lane. Upon approaching the vehicle, a conversation was started by CO Kamps with the occupants. While talking to the occupants, an open gun case was observed by the center console. CO Kamps asked about their case and noticed the passenger was hiding his muzzle loader with his leg. CO Smith recovered the rifle from the passenger and confirmed it was loaded with a primer and the hammer was cocked back. A citation was issued to the individuals for loaded/uncased firearm in a motor vehicle.
- **CO Cody Smith** was working a snowmobile trail after a big snowstorm when a snowmobile approached. The rider was disoriented and had stated they were trying to find their way to work after leaving their residence two hours prior. They called their boss and told them they were going to be late. CO Smith assisted the rider with directions so they could get safely to work on their sled without being any later for work.
- **CO John Kamps and PCO Alex VanWagner** teamed up to work an illegal deer case across Dickinson and Marquette County lines. Contact was made with both suspects at their camp and residence. After a brief interview with both suspects, a full confession was obtained for loan and borrow a deer kill-tag. The son of the suspect shot the deer who did not have a valid tag in his possession at the time of kill. After the deer was shot, the father went to purchase a tag for the deer. The suspects were charged with failing to affix and loan/borrow a deer kill-tag.
- **CO John Kamps** was on patrol when a snowmobile failed to stop at a main intersection and crossed the road directly in front of him. The CO attempted to stop the snowmobile, but they continued down the trail. The CO went to the next snowmobile intersection and conducted a stop on the snowmobile. Upon the stop it was determined that the snowmobile had expired registration and no trail permit. A citation was issued for careless snowmobile operation.
- **Sgt. Brian Bacon and CO Anna Viau** patrolled state land south of Crystal Falls early in the rifle season. CO Viau had located an illegal blind on CF land the previous year and wanted to check it again. This time, there was a hunter in the blind hunting over too much bait. The man was cited for hunting over too much bait and warned for littering on CF land.
- **CO Anna Viau** conducted a meat processor inspection a few days into rifle season. She located a spike deer tagged with a regular combination tag with the tag not fully validated. Shortly after the inspection, CO Viau interviewed the hunter who had taken the deer. He admitted his misunderstanding of the law and that he had screwed up. CO Viau cited the man for an APR violation and warned him for failure to properly validate the kill-tag.
- **CO Jeffrey Dell** checked a blind location he had marked the previous year for cutting shooting lanes. Upon inspection, the hunter at the blind was found to not be wearing hunter orange and had no deer licenses in his possession. The hunter also admitted to cutting trees on state land the year prior. CO Dell issued a citation for hunting deer without having a valid deer license in possession and issued warnings for all other violations. The man was advised to return to camp to retrieve his license before continuing to hunt.
- **CO Jeremy Sergey** was patrolling near Kate's Grade when he checked an individual driving down the grade. The individual had a loaded rifle with a round chambered in the backseat of the vehicle. The individual stated his concealed pistol (CPL) instructor told him he could have a loaded rifle in his truck with a CPL. CO Sergey educated the individual that not only was that wrong, but extremely dangerous. A citation was issued.
- **CO Shannon Kritz** contacted multiple hunters on Commercial Forest (CF) property during the opening week of firearm deer season. Enforcement action was taken for leaving blinds out year-round, cutting trees, ORV use, and baiting in the core CWD zone.
- **CO Shannon Kritz** contacted multiple hunters on state land during the opening week of firearm deer season. CO Kritz issued numerous citations for litter, no name on blind, and baiting in the core CWD zone. Warnings were issued for leaving blinds out year-round and exceeding the two-gallon bait limit.

Parks & Recreation Division: Doug Rich, WUP District Supervisor

Use Statistics

Camping



Up	0
Down	0
Similar to the same period last...	4
Closed / N/A	7

Overnight Lodging



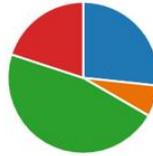
Up	1
Down	0
Similar to last year	6
Closed / N/A	6

Boating / Harbors



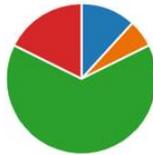
Up	3
Down	0
Similar to last year	9
Closed / N/A	3

Trails



Up	4
Down	1
Similar to last year	7
Closed / N/A	3

Day Use



Up	2
Down	1
Similar to last year	11
Closed / N/A	3

Camping

McLain	Closed campground on November 1 2021
Baraga FO	Assisted Escanaba Field Office on shoreline and campground restoration at Wells State Park
Baraga SP	Campground closed for the season on November 1. Highest camping numbers in 20+ years with over 10,000 camp nights in the 2021 season.
Fort Wilkins HSP	Our campgrounds are closed for the season, we have 2 cabins available for rent, but use is slow this time of year.
Bewabic	A major campground sewer system overhaul is in the design phase with GEI Consultants along with road repairs to the campground's loop roads.
Wells SP	Campground shoreline erosion project phase 1 is complete along the campsites in the campground. Escanaba and Baraga field offices helped with construction.

Overnight Lodging

McLain SP	McLain lodging was busier in 2021 compared to 2020 for November, especially around the Thanksgiving Holiday. Planning for construction of Phase III (Cabin relocation, water, and sewer system upgrades) at McLain is still moving forward and we are hopeful that we will be doing construction in 2022
Little Presque Isle SFRA	Staff is working on project planning for Trust Fund grant funding received for the Little Presque Isle Tract within the Van Riper State Park Management Unit. Projects include new bridges and additional trail work.
Lake Gogebic SP	Completion of construction for the park's Tiny House is expected to be done in December, and available for public use by Memorial Day 2022.

Baraga SP	Closed 11/1/21. Very high use in 2021, one of the best use years. Improvements to pedestrian access of Bond Falls are being designed by GEI Consultants.
Fort Wilkins HSP	We are in the process of upgrading some of the amenities in our mini cabin.
Porcupine Mountains WSP	Porkies - Winter lodging units continue to be extremely popular.

Boating Access Sites and Harbors

Bewabic SP	Pulled all skid piers for winter.
McLain SP	Skid piers were pulled in the beginning of November at McLain's BAS to prepare for winter.
Van Riper SP	With warmer weather later into the year, boating access sites saw a little later season use than in past years within the Van Riper State Park Management unit.
Twin Lakes SP	We received a nice number of Lake Trout for an early winter fish plant. Having staff on the two extra weeks helped greatly.
Baraga FO	Installed a new storm drain in parking lot of Baraga Field Office
Escanaba FO	All Skid Piers within the unit have been removed. Multiple use agreements have been put into place to extend the pilot project that we began last season to have a select number of BAS's plowed for winter recreation access.
Lake Gogebic SP	Skid piers were pulled in late and final seasonal maintenance was performed at access sites in the beginning of November. Omen Creek BAS armoring work was bid out to contractor and was awarded to MD Contracting of Baraga.
J.W. Wells SP	Design is underway by UPEA for further armoring and parking lot improvements at Menominee River Railroad Dock BAS
Baraga SP	Boating access sites were busy well past normal dates. Courtesy piers were pulled later than normal due to the number of users still at sites.
Fort Wilkins HSP	The accessible fishing platform is showing its wear. We are reaching out to the manufacturer regarding what it will take address some of the issues
Porcupine Mountains WSP	Due to a mild start to winter the skid piers were left in at Union Bay and the Big Iron River until the first week of December.

Trails

McLain SP	Warmer weather at McLain brought more people out on the trails
Little Presque Isle SFRA	The Little Presque Isle Tract within the Van Riper State Park Management Unit is set to see 1.25 million visitors for the 2021 calendar year. This is an extraordinary amount of use seen for the first year of having vehicle counters put into use.
Twin Lakes SP	Early snow and enough snow brought in a large number of snowmobilers, this last weekend, compared to last season when trails didn't open till late Dec.
Baraga FO	Repairs were done on Baltimore River Bridge, Ewen Bridge and Firesteel Trestles
Escanaba FO	Escanaba Field Office was able to move forward with the purchase of a new UTV for pathway maintenance. Funding was identified from Trails through a grant

Lake Gogebic SP	Planning has begun for trail maintenance projects in the U.P. slated for FY22 to be done by the Lake Gogebic traveling construction crew
Baraga SP	There were still many ORVs out using trails until late November and now that there is snow, even though trails aren't being groomed yet, the snowmobilers are out.
Porcupine Mountains WSP	With lack of snow trail use has been down. Staff were able to accomplish more winter trail prep. work.

Day Use

Menominee River SRA	MRSRA was awarded \$300,000 for new bridges from MNRTF.
McLain SP	The weather being warmer at McLain brought more day users to the park. There were also some surfers on Lake Superior riding the waves that come with the November winds/storms
Van Riper SP	Staff is in the planning stages for some upgrades to the Peshekee River Rustic Cabin at Van Riper State Park. Upgrades are to come in later February, early March, with additional assistance from the Lake Gogebic Crew.
Bond Falls SS	As per normal, we get quite a few calls inquiring about winter access to the site. We had an inquiry this month about plowing the road open for a winter wedding in January.
Baraga SP	The day use was closed on 11/1, people have been moving the gate and entering the day use area in the evenings and weekends. Now that there is snow, this is becoming less of an issue.
Porcupine Mountains WSP	Due to a lack of snow the Porkies Ski Hill was not able to open for use between Christmas and New Year. In addition, design is underway for a major sewer system overhaul and parking lot improvements at the visitor center and headquarters area.

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

Bewabic SP	Fortune Lake Association has begun planning for an event at Bewabic this coming summer.
McLain SP	McLain staff have been busy organizing and updating the park headquarters buildings. In addition, a \$300,000 Trust Fund grant was award to design the Douglas Houghton Falls Scenic Site
Craig Lake SP	Late in the season staff was able to inspect and clear a piece of trail, the High Life Creek trail, within Craig Lake State Park. Staff also completed a site visit to the cabin situated on Clair Lake. Planning is underway for improvements to the Large Cabin, or the Lodge, to begin the process to restore its historical integrity. There are also other projects being looked at for the trails and the Small Cabin within the park.
Van Riper SP	Newest seasonal ranger, Evan Omernick, attended the Operations Academy for PRD. This included 2 weeks of additional hands-on training for ranger type skillsets at the RAM Center.
Baraga FO	The vacant Lead Equipment Operator position has been filled by John Robillard and paperwork to fill the now vacant Equipment Operator 8 position has been submitted.
Escanaba FO	2021 work at JW Wells for armoring the shoreline was wrapped up with the assistance of BFO, and construction will resume in the spring of 2022
Lake Gogebic SP	The seasonal ranger vacancy was filled by Eli Lipske, a former MDOC employee.

Fisheries Division: George Madison, Western Lake Superior Management Unit

The following are the western Upper Peninsula fisheries division highlights for the period of November 3 through January 19, 2022, on behalf of the following Western UP Fisheries Division staff:

- *Lake Superior Unit Basin Coordinator: Patrick Hanchin*
- *Western Lake Superior Management Unit: George Madison*
- *Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit: Darren Kramer, John Bauman, Jennifer Johnson*
- *Fish Production Unit: Dan Sampson (Thompson/Marquette Supervisor), James Aho (Marquette Hatchery).*
- *Research Unit: Dr. Edward Baker, Dr. Troy Zorn, Shawn Sitar*

Fisheries Management Team Update (Patrick Hanchin, Lk Superior Basin Coordinator)

Management Units

- ***Western Lake Superior Management Unit (George Madison, Unit Biologist):*** Staff have been conducting traditional winter season work which includes the following tasks:
 - Writing lake and stream management prescriptions, work plans, fish stocking requests, and 2021 fisheries survey reports.
 - Planning has begun for spring and summer lake and stream survey work, walleye rearing, and walleye stocking. The Lake Gogebic walleye survey will commence after ice-out, with a follow up fish assemblage survey being conducted in the month of June.
 - Staff attended (via virtual) the annual fisheries biologist conference and the winter Great Lakes Fishery Commission Lake Superior Technical Committee meeting.

Forest Resources Division: Tom Seablom, Western UP District Supervisor

- Staff continue to telework. Staff have been informed that this will continue into 2022. For more information on the DNR COVID- 19 response go to: Michigan.Gov/DNR
- Field work on the 2024 YOE Inventory is starting. Open House and Compartment Review schedules will be posted online when dates are finalized. Other state forest inventory information can also be found at: Michigan.Gov/Forestry.
- As of January 7th, 326 timber sale contracts are open WUP Wide. This represents 874,513 cords of timber on 51,171 acres, valued at approximately \$33.1 million. Included in this are 18 GNA sales representing 64,786 cords of timber on 4,254 acres, valued at approximately \$2.4 million
- WUP Units are reporting 42 Active Timber Sales in the WUP totaling about 4,168 acres. Units report good to normal demand for timber
- Forest protection staff have been working on evaluating and winterizing fire equipment. Equipment needing repairs or additional attention over the winter was identified and will be addressed over the next few months. Winter brings several opportunities to continue with needed training in the fire community and courses will be conducted. Staff will continue to assist in land management activities when appropriate; helping to complete our POW over the course of the year. One big endeavor has been implementing staff into the department survey program. They will assist our professional survey staff in conducting Land Surveys in accordance with Michigan Law. Training will begin in early January and eventually skills will be moved to the field.

- Forest Health is continuing to work with Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) staff to complete Michigan Invasive Species Grant funded hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) winter surveys along the U.P. Lake Michigan shoreline, and a training for 2021-2022 survey staff was held in December. HWA has not been detected in the U.P. to date but has potential for impacts to the hemlock resource in protected areas and where introduction could have occurred, especially with infested hemlock nursery stock or migratory birds.
- Starting January 1st open enrollment for the Commercial Forest Program will continue until April 1st. For more information on the Commercial Forest Program go to Michigan.Gov/Commercialforest

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

Trail Specialist: Jeff Kakuk, Western Upper Peninsula

Trail Projects:

- Little Carp Trestle deck reconstruction is complete with only minor site work remaining in spring. This is the final large project on the 11-mile section of DNR rail grade and will allow full use in 2022.
- UP15 Snowmobile trail has been closed the past two seasons due to the failure of a bridge in the Sturgeon River Sloughs Wildlife Area. The bridge design work is nearly complete and plans for construction in summer 2022 should allow the trail to re-open in 22/23 snowmobile season. The project is being funded and managed by DNR Wildlife Division.
- The Menominee River Trail Bridge near Iron Mountain will be undergoing abutment repairs this summer. This underwater work is the final phase of the project and will not impact trail use.
- Other projects are awaiting award of some 2022 funding and are keyed up for summer bidding.

Snowmobile Trails:

- Mother nature has once again given us rain, ice, high wind, and SNOW. This has given our sponsors some start up challenges. Despite all this the clubs have been doing a great job of working to keep trails open and in peak condition for our users.
- 5 WUP snowmobile sponsors received funding for new machines this year. There will be 6 new groomers working on our trails this season.
- UP11S, UP2 following grade into Wakefield and UP133 are open this season due to trail sponsor efforts.

Trail Specialist: Rob Katona, Central Upper Peninsula

Project Name: ORV Route Grading Alger, Delta, Marquette, Menominee, and Dickinson Counties	Project Name: Sturgeon River Bridge	Project Name: Nahma Grade Multi-Use Trail	Project Name: Clowry Grade Bridges #2, #3 & #6
Description: Multiple projects for grading and smoothing ORV routes with multiple grades planned in high use areas to help prevent rough routes.	Description: Bridge rehab snowmobile trail 2 Dickinson County on State owned Rail-Trail.	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	Trail Use: Rail Trails	Trail Use: Rail Trails	Trail Use: Rail Trails
Anticipated Completion: Summer 2022	Anticipated Completion: September 2022	Anticipated Completion:	Anticipated Completion:
Q1 Update: Started work scopes and project entering. Projects will be advertised this spring.	Q1 Update: Bridge is currently closed the design is nearly 100% with construction beginning early summer of 2022.	Q1 Update: Project on hold awaiting funding. Design for two main water crossings is 100% the remainder of the grade clearing and minor culvert work is in the planning stages.	Q1 Update: Design for bridges #2 & #3 nearly 100% advertising to follow with construction beginning early summer of 2022.

		Additional funding is necessary for both phases of the project.	
Project Name: Clowry Grade Bridges #1, #4, #5 & #7	Project Name: Clowry ORV Improvements	Project Name: Little Presque Isle Rec Area Improvements	Project Name: Days River Single Track Trail Construction
Description: Design and rehab/construction of multiple bridges on this designated ORV/snowmobile multi-use Rail-Trail in Marquette County.	Description: Filling several low areas and culvert replacement on the Clowry Grade ORV C & CL Routes.	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.
Trail Use: Rail Trails	Trail Use: Rail Trails	Trail Use: Nonmotorized & mountain bike	Trail Use: Nonmotorized & mountain bike
Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: 7/29/2022	Anticipated Completion: 2023	Anticipated Completion: 2023
Q1 Update: Scoping documents complete awaiting contract for engineering/design.	Q1 Update: Completing work scope for minor construction project advertising this spring	Q1 Update: Inventory and work scope are complete advertising in January for engineering design for the summer of 2022 with construction in 2023.	Q1 Update: Scoping documents complete awaiting contract for engineering/design.
Project Name: Thunder Valley Trail Development	Project Name: Tyoga Pathway Bridges	Project Name: LPI Songbird Trail and Harlow Creek Bridges	Project Name: Genes Pond Pathway
Description: Complete construction on three additional loops and connector trail to Fairgrounds designed for equestrian use.	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: Construction of 1.75 mile accessible pathway with scenic overlooks adjacent to state forest campground.
Trail Use: Nonmotorized & EQ	Trail Use: Nonmotorized	Trail Use: Nonmotorized	Trail Use: Nonmotorized
Anticipated Completion: 7/29/2022	Anticipated Completion: 2023-2024	Anticipated Completion: 2023-2024	Anticipated Completion: 2023-2024
Q1 Update: Readvertised last fall and awarded contract work will begin after spring break-up.	Q1 Update: Scoping documents complete awaiting contract for engineering/design.	Q1 Update: Scoping documents complete awaiting contract for engineering/design.	Q1 Update: Scoping documents complete awaiting contract for engineering/design.
Project Name: Laughing Whitefish Falls Bridge	Project Name: Norway-Carney ORV/Snowmobile Connector Culverts	Project Name: Days River ORV Route Grading and Gravel	Project Name: Marquette County ORV Routes Improvements
Description: New pedestrian bridge construction on NCT over Laughing Whitefish River at the Laughing Whitefish Falls Natural Area.	Description: New ORV route/snowmobile trail development with several stream crossings requiring new culvert installation. New trail will connect the Norway ORV trail with Carney Lake Rd providing a east-west connection across Dickinson County.	Description: Replace culvert, grade, shape, and fill Days River ORV Route in Delta County	Description: Repair large holes replace culverts and surfacing on multiple ORV routes in western Marquette County
Trail Use: Nonmotorized	Trail Use: ORV/Snowmobile	Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV
Anticipated Completion: 2023-2024	Anticipated Completion: Summer/fall 2022	Anticipated Completion: 9/2022	Anticipated Completion: 9/2022
Q1 Update: Working on scoping documents awaiting contract for engineering/design.	Q1 Update: Completing work scope and EGLE permits.	Q1 Update: Complete PR and work scope for summer minor construction project	Q1 Update: Complete PR and work scope for summer minor construction project

Project Name: Forest Islands Repairs and Restoration	Project Name: Felch Grade Surface Improvements II	Project Name: Bass Lake Restoration	Project Name: Gwinn-Arnold Improvements and Restoration II
Description: Repair damaged board walks and damage in low wet areas on the Forest Islands ORV Trail/Route in Menominee and Delta Counties	Description: Gravel capping on the Felch Grade in Menominee and Dickinson Counties	Description: Perform reroutes around eroded areas.	Description: ORV G route Marquette County filling, gravel, and culvert work
Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV
Anticipated Completion: NA	Anticipated Completion: 7/2022	Anticipated Completion: 9/2022	Anticipated Completion: 8/2022
Q1 Update: This contract went to default in 2021 currently working on securing additional funding to readvertise and complete this project during the summer of 2022.	Q1 Update: Need to enter PR and finalize work scope for minor construction this summer	Q1 Update: Complete PR and work scope for summer minor construction project	Q1 Update: Complete PR and work scope for summer minor construction project

Project Name: Delta-Menominee ORV Routes Improvements	Proposal: Norway Rock Motorcycle Trail Proposal	Proposal: Moose Mountain Reroute Snowmobile Trail & Three Lakes	Proposal: Days River Nature Trail	Proposal: Dickinson County Snowmobile Trail Reroutes
Description: Minor bridge railing and decking repairs replace culverts and surfacing work	Description: New single-track construction in Dickinson County adjacent to the Norway ORV trail	Description: Trail/bridge improvements and reroutes around difficult to groom areas. Logging operation on SCTC property to offset trail reroute costs.	Description: Designate and improve non-motorized pathway located along the Days River near Little Bay De Noc.	Description: Multiple reroutes to relocate trails to better areas and work with private landowners and the DCRC.
Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use: Snowmobile
Anticipated Completion: 9/2022	Anticipated Completion:	Anticipated Completion: 1/2022	Anticipated Completion: Spring 2022	Anticipated Completion: Completed 12/2021
Q1 Update: Complete PR and work scope for summer minor construction project	Q1 Update: WLD denied; no further progress will occur without their support.	Q1 Update: Trail and bridge improvements are complete and logging on the SCTC property has begun. Trail is currently open and operational for the 2022 snowmobile season. The trail proposal has been approved.	Q1 Update: Proposal has been entered going through review.	Q1 Update: Work has been completed and trail proposal is going through final review.

Wildlife Division: Heather Shaw, Biologist-Shingleton

- **2021 Deer Season:** Here is a **preliminary** summary of the check station activities during the firearm deer season. Most stations were open Nov. 15-18 only. The Escanaba Customer Service Center and Norway Field Office check stations were open most days through the firearm season. The preliminary results in the table below are based on those stations only:

Deer Checked Nov. 15-30

<u>Check Station</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change from 2020</u>
Escanaba	547	+5%
Norway	132	-7%
Total	679	+3%

The total from these two stations is up about 3% from the same time in 2020. It is important to note that there have been several changes to check stations over the past 10 years. Most of the deer checked were bucks. Most UP

bucks aged at check stations have been 2.5 years old or older, but a higher percentage of bucks have been 1.5 years old than the past few years. Last winter was mild and provided good conditions for young deer to make it through the winter. An approximate breakdown of UP bucks aged at check stations in 2021: **1.5 years old - 28%; 2.5 years old - 40%; 3.5+ years old - 32%.**

Based on reports from check stations, most hunters seem to be satisfied with the hunting season. Many mentioned seeing more deer including multiple bucks. However, there were some that didn't see much. Deer have been in good condition overall, and antler development has been average to perhaps above average for some stations particularly on yearling bucks. Weather conditions were generally good for hunting most days, which was better than in 2020 when rain and high winds were widespread on opening day and poor conditions persisted for the next couple of days in many areas.

- 2021 Bear Season:** The UP had another successful bear season in 2021! The number of bears registered in each Bear Management Unit approached desired harvest set forth for this season. Weather was warm and wet, yet hunters reported seeing multiple bears on camera. Wildlife staff received several reports of larger bears. 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.

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

- Wintering Deer-Road Survey:** UP wildlife staff will be beginning the UP Wintering Deer Road Survey to document, identify, and understand deer use of critical winter habitat in historical and currently used deer wintering complexes throughout the Upper Peninsula. This data will allow UPR staff to prioritize landscape level management activities and guide unit level decision making while assisting in co-management responsibilities with Forest Resources Division (FRD) during the forest inventory process and help us educate and interact with stakeholders across the UPR through various means of outreach.
- Wolf survey:** In the next few months UP wildlife staff will be conducting our wolf population estimate. Our every other year minimum winter population estimate uses a stratified random sample design which roughly covers 60% of the U.P. in any given survey period. After wolves were removed from the endangered species list 1/4/21 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is required to monitor wolf populations for (at least) five years. Our every other year abundance estimate meets this federal requirement.
- Winter Waterfowl Survey:** The State of Michigan cooperates with other states and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to census local, migrant, and wintering waterfowl populations to determine population status and habitat use trends. The January Winter Inventory is part of continental waterfowl surveys that must be completed during a specified period, UP staff completed the winter waterfowl survey during the first week of January.

- **Wild Turkey Stakeholder Meeting-Upcoming:** There will be a UP wild turkey stakeholder meeting held in January. Agenda topics will include a review of the most current hunting season statistics and turkey population trends across the UP Region. We will be discussing recommendations for the next 3 year fall stabilized regulations cycle as well as a proposal to the state to have the option for successful applicants to have the ability to buy one left over license as well. Adam Bump, Michigan's Acting Upland Game Bird Specialist and Program Leader, will attend the meeting virtually and provide a statewide perspective.

The meeting will be held **Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at Bay College in Escanaba**. The meeting will be held in the Math / Science Building (MS), room 125 from 7:00 - 8:30 EST (6:00 - 7:30 CST). Bay College requires that all students, employees, and campus visitors wear a face covering while indoors on college property. We will be offering a hybrid / virtual option for this meeting via Microsoft Teams (*please contact Ryan McGillviray for more information at McGillvirayR@michigan.gov: [Click here to join the meeting](#) or call in #: 1-248-509-0316, conference ID: 686 314 970#*).

- **Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative Grant Program-Upcoming:** The Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative grant program will be rolling out a request for projects for the 2022 grant cycle in late January. The Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative (DHPI) is a grant program designed to foster productive relationships between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, 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. The Initiative focuses on completing deer habitat improvements in the Upper Peninsula and is based upon a competitive application process. Initiative funding is from an annual Deer Range Improvement Program (DRIP) fund appropriation. Public Act 106 of 1971 created the DRIP fund, whereby \$1.50 from every deer hunting license sold statewide is allocated into a restricted fund to be exclusively used for the improvement and maintenance of habitat for deer, acquisition of land for deer management, and the payment in lieu of taxes on purchased lands. Questions may be directed to Bill Scullon: Scullonh@michigan.gov. The 2022 Request for Proposals is scheduled to open Friday, January 21st and remain open until the submission deadline of Friday, March 11th.
- **Wildlife Disease Updates**
 - *White-Nosed Syndrome (WNS):* White-Nosed Syndrome 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).

May 5, 2021

Contacts: Caitlin Ott-Conn, 517-582-5696 (DNR) and Jessy Sielski, 517-331-1151 (MDARD)

MDARD, DNR stress biosecurity to help protect Michigan's rabbits and hares from fatal disease

The Michigan departments of Agriculture and Rural Development and Natural Resources advise Michiganders to be aware of rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus type 2 (RHDV2), which is a fatal disease for domestic and wild rabbits and hares. While it has not yet been found in Michigan, the high mortality rates seen with this disease could have serious impacts on the state's wild and domestic rabbits and hares. It is vital for those who handle, hunt and/or care for rabbits to be aware of this disease and to take precautions to keep the virus away from these animals.

Even though the disease does not affect people or other species of animals, RHDV2 is highly contagious and fatal to rabbits, and virtually all rabbits that contract the disease will die. RHDV2 is caused by a virus that can survive for a long time in the environment. A rabbit can develop the disease by having contact with an ill rabbit or its excretions or with an item that has touched an ill rabbit or its excretions.

In addition, people can inadvertently spread the virus into new areas by moving infected live rabbits, carcasses, or parts from infected animals, as well as on clothing and shoes.

Disease onset is rapid. Often the only sign of RHDV2 is the sudden death of a rabbit. However, other signs can include fever, reduced appetite, lack of coordination, respiratory problems, diarrhea or constipation, and a bloody, foamy discharge from the nose.

This variant of rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus was first found in 2010 in Europe, and the United States saw its first case in Ohio in 2018. The current outbreak of RHDV2 in the U.S. began with detections in New Mexico in March 2020, and while the disease has been found primarily in southwestern states, it has been spreading consistently across the country. Currently there is no vaccine licensed for use in the U.S.

Those who handle and care for rabbits are encouraged to follow good biosecurity measures to help prevent the virus from being introduced to Michigan's rabbit population, such as:

- Avoiding the purchase and/or adoption of rabbits from areas with RHDV2 or that are from unknown sources.
- Isolating newly acquired rabbits from other rabbits for at least 30 days.
- Regularly cleaning and disinfecting all items/surfaces a rabbit has touched or used. Bleach is effective against RHDV2 but be sure to follow the label's instructions.
- Avoiding sharing items between different groups of rabbits.
- Washing one's hands before and after handling a rabbit.
- Avoiding contact between domestic rabbits and wild rabbits.
- Restricting the public's contact with rabbits.
- Controlling for flies and rodents, as they could carry the virus.
- Opting not to feed a domestic rabbit with outdoor forage, as it could be contaminated.

Hunters should wear gloves when field-dressing rabbits and hares, bury any remains on-site at a depth of at least 2 feet to prevent scavenging and thoroughly wash their hands when finished. Meat from healthy rabbits and hares is safe to consume when cooked properly. If hunting outside of the state, it is recommended that no pieces or parts of harvested rabbits or hares be brought back to Michigan.

Falconers should avoid flying birds in areas known to have RHDV2 outbreaks, prevent birds from consuming dead or diseased rabbits or hares, and sanitize gear between outings. If flying birds outside of Michigan, it is recommended that no pieces or parts of rabbits or hares be brought back to Michigan.

Licensed wildlife rehabilitators are asked to review biosecurity measures and follow recommendations of the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council.

RHDV2 is considered a foreign animal disease and is reportable to state and federal authorities. To report a suspicion of RHDV2 in domestic rabbits, please contact MDARD at 800-292-3939. In addition, if a veterinarian is not already involved, contact a private veterinarian.

If the disease is suspected in wildlife, the DNR recommends to not handle wild rabbits or hares found dead and to report the sighting to the DNR Wildlife Disease Laboratory at 517-336-5030.

However, if you must remove a carcass, the DNR recommends wearing gloves and thoroughly disinfecting anything that has been in contact with the carcass. Household bleach mixed at a 1:10 (10%) dilution is suggested for decontamination. If you have contact with dead rabbits or hares, you should shower and change clothes before contact with domestic rabbits to limit transmission of the virus. Carcasses can be double-bagged for disposal or buried 2 feet deep to minimize scavenging.

For more information, see a current map of confirmed RHDV2 cases nationwide and answers to frequently asked questions.

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MDARD Authorizes New Vaccine to Protect Domestic Rabbits Against RHDV2 ***Vaccine protects against fatal rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus type 2***

LANSING, MI — Today, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's (MDARD) State Veterinarian Dr. Nora Wineland authorized the use of a new vaccine for rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus type 2 (RHDV2), which must be administered by a Michigan licensed veterinarian. The implementation of this vaccine further safeguards domestic rabbits from this deadly disease.

RHDV2 is an extremely contagious, fatal disease for rabbits and hares. While RHDV2 does not affect people or other species of animals, virtually all rabbits and hares that contract the disease will die. At this time, there have been **no reported cases of RHDV2 in Michigan**; however, cases have been confirmed in [other states](#).

The new RHDV2 vaccine was developed by the South Dakota-based company, Medgene Labs. The product was granted emergency use approval by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for wide use in the United States. The vaccine is an inactivated (killed) recombinant subunit vaccine given subcutaneously in two doses, 21 days apart. Full immunity develops 14 days after the second dose.

The vaccine is only available to, and must be administered by, licensed veterinarians in the State of Michigan. If you are a veterinarian and interested in obtaining the vaccine, please contact Medgene Labs at 605-697-2600. For more information on the vaccine, including a list of frequently asked questions, visit the [Medgene Labs website](#).

Even with the availability of this RHDV2 vaccine, rabbit owners should be following good biosecurity practices—both before an animal's vaccination and afterward. Biosecurity measures help to protect any animal from harmful diseases, keeping them healthy.

Recommended biosecurity measures include:

- Avoiding the purchase and/or adoption of rabbits from [areas with RHDV2](#).
- Isolating newly acquired rabbits from other rabbits for **at least 30 days**.
- Regularly cleaning and disinfecting all items/surfaces a rabbit has touched, especially if a rabbit has been ill and the item is likely to be shared with another rabbit. Bleach is effective against RHDV2 but be sure to follow the label's instructions. Also, if something cannot be disinfected, discard it.
- Not sharing items between different groups of rabbits.

- Washing one's hands before and after handling a rabbit.
- Taking off one's shoes after coming indoors and storing them in a place that is out of reach for a pet rabbit.
- Keeping domestic rabbits away from wild rabbits. Do not let domestic rabbits outdoors.
- Controlling for flies and rodents as they could carry the virus.
- Opting **not** to feed a domestic rabbit with outdoor forage as it could be contaminated.
- Promptly isolating any ill rabbits and contacting a veterinarian.

For more information on RHDV2, please refer to the fact sheets developed by the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) and the [Michigan Department of Natural Resources](#).