



Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: January 2023 (Information current as of 1/11/2023)

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

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.

January TBD	Board of Foresters (meeting date not yet determined, call 989-370-9557)
January 12	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, 9am, Lansing (call 517-599-1067)
January 18	Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council Work Session (virtual)
January 20	Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council, 8:30am (call 517-582-3220)
January 31	Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee, 10am (all 231-622-3820)
February 9	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, 9am, Lansing (call 517-599-1067)
February 15	Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council Work Session (virtual)

U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities

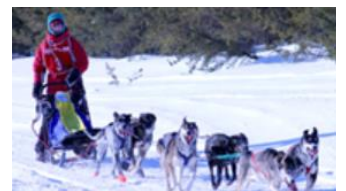
Please check with the state park before attending activity for any scheduling changes.

For all activities: [DNR Things to Do Calendar](#)

January 20	Lantern-lit Snowshoe Hike, Van Riper State Park
January 21	Feeding Winter Birds Virtual Class Feeding Winter Birds
January 21	Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
January 21	Snowshoe Guided Hike-Beginner, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 3	Snowshoe Guided Hike-Advanced, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 3	Lantern-lit Snowshoe Hike, Van Riper State Park
February 4	Snowshoe Guided Hike-Beginner, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 4	Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 4	Guided Snowshoe Hike, Tahquamenon Falls State Park
February 4	Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Tahquamenon Falls State Park
February 10-12	Midwest Telefest 2023, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 10	Snowshoe Guided Hike-Advanced, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 11	Guided Snowshoe Hike, Tahquamenon Falls State Park
February 11	Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Tahquamenon Falls State Park
February 11	Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 17	Snowshoe Guided Hike-Advanced, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 18	Guided Snowshoe Hike, Tahquamenon Falls State Park
February 18	Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Tahquamenon Falls State Park
February 18	Snowshoe Guided Hike-Beginner, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 18	Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 24	Snowshoe Guided Hike-Advanced, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 25	Guided Snowshoe Hike, Tahquamenon Falls State Park
February 25	Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Tahquamenon Falls State Park
February 25	Snowshoe Guided Hike-Beginner, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 25	Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 25	Porkies Winter Carnival, Porkies Winter Sports Complex

UP 200 Sled Dog Races & Events

February 17-18



in Marquette and surrounding areas

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- Showcasing the DNR: Simple resolutions to enjoy, protect Michigan's outdoors (1/5/23)
- Successful fall fish stocking creates more angling opportunities (1/5/23)
- Spring turkey license application period open now (1/4/23)
- DNR receives metallic minerals lease application for Baraga County (1/3/23)
- Input due Jan. 20 on state parks and recreation draft plan (1/3/23)
- Showcasing the DNR: Counting down the year (12/29/22)
- Cleanup tips for winter storm-damaged trees (12/27/22)
- Porkies Winter Sports Complex opens Friday (12/27/22)
- DNR News: Winter bird safety, new Gather 'Round, land review and more (12/22/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: Michigan wildland firefighters lend a hand (12/22/22)
- DNR urges snowmobile safety amid winter storm (12/22/22)
- Winter fur harvesting opportunities in Michigan (12/22/22)
- Share your thoughts with the DNR at January meetings (12/20/22)
- DNR welcomes 12 new conservation officers (12/16/22)

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 |
| ▪ 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 |

December NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met in Lansing on December 8, 2022. Major actions taken:

The commission approved [Fisheries Order 210.23](#), which governs designation of trout streams. As part of that action, the commission approved [an amendment from Commissioner David Cozad](#).

Director Dan Eichinger approved:

- [The results of the Oct. 25, 2022, Oil and Gas Lease Auction](#), which raised \$58,085 for the State Parks Endowment Fund.
- [The updated Elk Conservation and Management Plan](#).
- [The updated Michigan Wolf Management Plan](#).
- Eight land transactions. Details can be found [in the NRC agenda](#).

Wildlife Committee

Krista Hubbard and Casey Reitz from the Wildlife Division gave a presentation on the department's Human-Wildlife Conflict Workgroup. The group was formed in 2018 to try to bring consistency to response to wildlife nuisance complaints. The work group plans to propose a nuisance regulation package in the spring.

As part of the same presentation, Adam Bump from Wildlife reviewed beaver management in the state. Beavers are native to Michigan. Although once depleted because of commercial harvest and habitat loss, there is currently an abundant population throughout most of the state. Beavers provide a variety of ecological benefits, including the creation of wetlands and an increase in biodiversity. They also destroy trees and can cause flooding. Adam reviewed a variety of methods to manage beaver populations, emphasizing that the department seeks to find a balance between managing human conflicts and the benefits the species provides.

Patrick Ertel from Fisheries reviewed literature on the effects of beaver dams on fish populations, including effects stream sediment and water temperature. Patrick emphasized that there's no one-size-fits-all solution to beaver dams, and decisions about dam removal should be made on a case-by-case basis. Next, Anne Garwood from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy reviewed EGLE regulations that apply when beaver dams are removed.

Committee of the Whole

The commission recognized former NRC Commissioner Rex Schlaybaugh for his service on the commission. Appointed to the commission in January 2012, he was on the commission until January 2020, sitting on several committees and workgroups and acting as chair for a brief period of time. Among other things, Director Eichinger recognized former Commissioner Schlaybaugh's efforts to explore the science of chronic wasting disease. Commission Chair Tom Baird called former Commissioner Schlaybaugh "a great friend of conservation."

Law Enforcement Chief David Shaw and Wildlife Chief Jared Duquette presented a lifesaving award to Erin Largent of the Wildlife Division. In March 2022 Erin was conducting wolf track surveys on snowmobile in an isolated area near Marquette. She came upon a vehicle that had slid into a snow drift. A man in the vehicle had been there overnight in temperatures that dipped to 4 degrees. Erin assisted the man back to her DNR vehicle, where he was able to warm up, and assisted in arranging for having his vehicle towed. Erin's actions are credited with saving the man from hypothermia and perhaps worse.

Bob Taylor of the Michigan Involvement Committee of Safari Club International presented the organization's Biologist of the Year Award to Emily Pomeranz of the Wildlife Division. A native of Wisconsin, Emily earned degrees at the universities of Wisconsin, Oregon and New York. Emily was recognized for her work to develop effective leaders in the department, and for working on educating the public on chronic wasting disease as well as informing public policy and planning for wolf management in Michigan.

Jay Wesley of Fisheries talked about the use of the state's Water Withdrawal Tool and the process for stream classification in relation to a proposed change to the designation of Prairie River in Branch County.

Seth Herbst from Fisheries talked about proposed changes to Fisheries Order 216.23, which regulates the taking of minnows for commercial purposes. A law that took effect this year creates a new export permit, allowing for minnows, wrigglers and crayfish taken from Michigan waters to be exported. The proposed changes to the Fisheries Order define the implementation of the updated statute.

Krista Hubbard and Casey Reitz from the Wildlife Division outlined proposed changes to wildlife rehabilitation permits. The new regulations would govern the activities of approximately 120 wildlife rehabbers in Michigan. The amended regulations propose a variety of changes to requirements for applicants, facilities, animal care and treatment, release methods, permitting, annual reporting, facility operations, temporary possession of wild animals, the use of non-releasable migratory birds, and several other non-regulatory items. The changes will be before the director next month for action.

Chad Stewart of Wildlife offered preliminary results from this year's firearm deer season. The state's new online harvest reporting tool has worked well, Chad said, and provides timely data on reported deer harvest. More than 80 percent of hunters spent less than five minutes reporting their harvest online and 95 percent of reports have been completed within 72 hours, as required. So far, hunters have harvested more than 265,000 deer this year. Reported harvest distribution around the state is consistent with last year. Among other interesting statistics, the data showed that on the opening day of regular firearm deer season, on average one deer was harvested every .8 seconds of daylight. Chad also reported on CWD and bovine tuberculosis surveillance. The department still plans use a mail-in hunter survey to collect data on this fall's deer seasons.

A report on legislation affecting the department that was given to the commission is listed below.

How to Participate in the NRC Meetings

- If you're unable to attend the meeting but wish to submit written comments on agenda items, please write to: Natural Resources Commission, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909 or email: nrc@michigan.gov.
- If you would like further information or would like to address the Commission, please contact the NRC Assistant at **517-599-1067** or email: nrc@michigan.gov. Persons registering on or before the Friday preceding the meeting will be allowed up to five (5) minutes for their presentation. Persons registering after the Friday preceding the meeting or at the meeting will be allowed up to three (3) minutes. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the NRC Assistant.
- Look for the agendas and other Natural Resources Commission items at the NRC webpage (www.michigan.gov/NRC).

December 2022 Legislative Updates – Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

Senate Bill 1172 – Modify Definition of a Peace Officer in the Mental Health Code – Sen. Chang: This bill would amend the Mental Health Code, Act 258 of 1974, to modify the definition of a peace officer by adding an officer or agency who is licensed under the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES), Act 203 of 1965. The changes to this bill would allow an expansion of officers, including Conservation Officers, able to engage with a person requiring treatment under the Mental Health Code.

- Senate Bill 1172 was reported with recommendation by the Senate Committee on Health Policy and Human Services and is awaiting action on the House floor.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

If you would like to learn more about these and other bills, go to: [Michigan Legislative Bills](#).

Eastern UPCAC Update

The **Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council** met on December 15, 2022, in a virtual format. The meeting was scheduled to be held in person but was changed to a virtual meeting due to a major winter storm affecting the entire UP. NRC Chair Tom Baird and Commissioner Dave Anthony both attended the meeting. Agenda topics discussed included: Division reports, Wolf Management Plan Approval Process Update from November NRC Meeting, Mandatory Harvest Registration Season-to-Date Overview, Virtual Elk Hunt Orientation Request to NRC, Council Member Term Expirations/Renewals/Solicitation of New Applicants, Defer Officer Elections to April 2023 Meeting, and Committee Reports. The next meeting will be a work session held in February.

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

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

- **CO Jenni Hanson** received a call of an ORV trespassing on Big Powderhorn Mountain Ski Resort. CO Hanson responded to the location and observed the ORV and driver, recognizing the driver as someone she had dealt with before on a different trespassing issue. The driver was cited for ORV trespass.
- **CO Jenni Hanson** discovered a pop-up blind with no name or address on it. A few days later, CO Hanson contacted the hunter who was utilizing the blind. CO Hanson observed the hunter was not wearing any hunter orange garments. A warning was issued for the unlabeled blind, but the subject was cited for failing to wear hunter orange.
- **CO Jenni Hanson** checked a subject exiting the woods from hunting. He was wearing hunter orange and displayed his hunting license; however, his four-wheeler was not properly licensed. CO Hanson issued a verbal warning and advised the subject that an ORV license needs to be purchased before he operates the four-wheeler again.
- **CO Byron Parks** stopped at a deer processor in Ontonagon County. During the check of the deer, CO Parks observed one deer license that was the restricted 4+ deer tag. It was attached to a 4-point deer. A deer combination license has antler point restrictions for both tags, a 3+ regular and 4+ restricted, which means antler points on one side requires 3+ or 4+. CO Parks located the subject who shot the 4-point at his residence. The subject stated he bought the combination license and put the restricted tag on a deer shot during bow season and the regular tag on the 4-point he shot during the firearm season. CO Parks explained to the antler point restrictions and how he was in violation no matter what license he attached to the 4-point. CO Parks advised the subject that a report would be submitted to the Houghton County prosecutor for violation of the Zone 1 antler point restrictions.
- **COs Brian Lasanen and Byron Parks** made contact with a subject who appeared to be road hunting. Upon checking a firearm located near the passenger, it was found to be uncased. The subject was cited for the uncased rifle in a motor vehicle.
- **CO Zach Painter** worked a complaint of several subjects driving behind a gate that was closed to wheeled vehicles. The subjects were accessing the commercial forest land behind the gate by ORV to deer hunt. CO painter contacted three individuals coming out from behind the gate on ORVs after dark. The violation of ORV trespassing was addressed.
- **CO Brian Lasanen and Sgt. Marc Pomroy** followed up on information regarding a possible APR violation. Interviews were conducted with a husband and wife who had shot multiple deer. At the conclusion of the interview, it was determined that a 7-point deer was shot prior to purchasing licenses, and a 4-point deer was illegally tagged with a restricted combination tag. The 7-point deer was seized, and charges are being sought with the Houghton County prosecutor.
- **CO Zach Painter** responded to assist the Michigan State Police with a welfare check on an individual who had gone to hunting camp in Ontonagon County and not checked in for three days. The officers had very poor directions to the camp and the only way to access it was by ORV. After several hours of attempting to locate the camp, CO Painter and an MSP trooper were able to locate the camp and contact the subject who was fine. When asked why he hadn't checked in with his wife, he stated that she wanted him to come home from deer camp and he didn't want to. He shut off his phone because she kept calling him.
- **CO Brian Lasanen and Sgt. Marc Pomroy** investigated a complaint of someone who shot an antlerless deer in an area not open to antlerless hunting. The COs arrived at the suspect's residence and observed an antlerless deer hanging in the woodshed with no kill-tag attached. Upon further investigation, it was determined there was also an 8-point buck hanging without a kill-tag attached. Interviews were conducted and the hunters were cited for possessing deer without a kill tag attached. The antlerless deer was seized and donated to a needy local family.
- **CO Anna Viau** responded to a chimney fire in Crystal Falls. Upon arriving on scene, CO Viau ensured the residents, including the dog, were out of the house. Shortly after, more officers and the Crystal Falls Fire Department arrived. Thankfully, there was no active chimney fire and there was no damage to the house.
- **Sgt. Brian Bacon and COs Alex VanWagner and Anna Viau** assisted with traffic control during a house fire in Iron River. Highway US 2 was closed for several hours, and two houses were lost during the fire. Several law and fire departments responded to the scene. The fire is still under investigation.
- **Sgt. Brian Bacon and CO Anna Viau** received a complaint of someone hunting within the city limits of Iron River. Upon arrival to the scene, which was a trailer park, the COs observed a bait pile behind a trailer and footsteps leading into the woods and back out. The COs contacted the residents of the trailer. When a man answered the door, he told the COs he had missed the deer he had shot at. Then he began to talk about several things he had done wrong, without the COs even asking. After interviewing him and his girlfriend about his hunting activity and the deer they had gotten previously, the COs tried to decipher all the information they had just received. The COs issued the man a citation for failure to exhibit a kill-tag, and his girlfriend a citation for failure to validate. The complaint information was also passed on to an Iron River officer for city ordinance violation follow up.
- **CO Anna Viau and PCO Alex Bourgeois, along with CO Alex VanWagner** were dispatched to a single vehicle traffic crash in Iron County. Upon arrival to the scene, the COs talked to the occupants, one of whom was taken to the hospital for minor injuries. The operator had lost control of the vehicle, went into the ditch, rolled once, and came to a rest against a tree. One of the occupants, an infant, thankfully was not injured. The operator was issued a citation for violation of the basic speed law.
- **CO Anna Viau and PCO Alex Bourgeois** were patrolling down Trail 2 in southern Iron County early afternoon on opening day when they came across a Jeep Renegade parked on a steep ditch with its front end against a tree. The front end had sustained severe damage from impact with that tree. There were no people around and there was a dusting of snow on the vehicle. After running the plate and the registered owner, the COs requested a tow truck. Conveniently, the registered owner lived in a nearby town, so another officer contacted her at her

residence. She told the officer she had lost control of the vehicle after coming back from someone's camp that morning. She was able to flag someone down and get a ride back to town. After the vehicle was towed, the COs also contacted the owner at her residence. She told the COs how grateful she was that they were able to get her vehicle towed out. When the COs told her she had to report an accident and remain on scene, and that they were going to have to submit a report to the prosecutor, she was slightly less grateful.

- **Sgt. Brian Bacon and CO Anna Viau** were patrolling some commercial forest property in western Iron County when they encountered a parked side-by-side ORV. The side-by-side contained an empty gun case and some bags of bait but did not have a current ORV license. The COs followed the foot tracks to a blind, where they contacted a hunter. The COs checked his bait, which was a few gallons over. CO Viau issued the man a citation for no ORV license and warned him for over bait.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** contacted a truck with two subjects road hunting on opening day of firearm deer season. The CO immediately noticed an uncased rifle in the front passenger seat of the vehicle. The violation was addressed, and a citation was issued for uncased firearm in a motor vehicle.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** contacted two hunters on ORVs leaving their hunting blinds on the evening of firearm deer season opener. Both operators were not wearing helmets. One was operating from an area closed to ORV traffic and did not have ORV stickers. This subject was also hunting out of an illegal blind setup. Citations and verbal warnings were issued to this hunter and the other was given a warning for no helmet.
- **CO Alex VanWagner and Detective Josh Boudreaux of EGLE** contacted two hunters in possession of untagged deer. One of the subjects shot a 6-point and the other shot a spike. The subject who shot the spike did not have kill-tags in possession as he ordered them online before going out to hunt. The other had kill-tags and had not yet attached a tag to his 6-point. A citation was issued to the subject who shot the spike and a verbal warning was issued to the other.
- **COs Alex VanWagner, Anna Viau, and PCO Alex Bourgeois** completed an inspection at a processor in Iron County. During the inspection, a truck pulled up with a 6-point tagged improperly. The subject was interviewed further regarding the deer and a citation was issued for an APR violation.
- **CO Alex VanWagner and PCO Alex Bourgeois** were finishing up with a processor inspection and observed an ATV rip through town past the processors at a high rate of speed with no helmet on. Contact was made with the operator and the ATV was also not registered. A citation was issued for no helmet on the ATV and warnings were issued for no registration and speed.
- **CO Alex VanWagner and Sgt. Brian Bacon** contacted a subject at his truck with a 6-point on public land in Iron County. The buck was tagged, and the subject said that his buddy had shot it and was on his way out of the woods. Further conversation led to the discovery of an uncased rifle in the back seat of the truck. The subject said he has been leaving his case at camp while he travels to his stand to hunt. A citation was issued for the violation. He also mentioned that his grandson with him at camp trapped an otter earlier that morning and he didn't know if it was tagged yet. The COs went back to the camp and discovered the otter had not been tagged. The grandson who harvested it said it was his first otter and he was not sure where or how to attach the kill-tag. The COs used this as an educational opportunity and showed the subject how to properly attach the tag.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** contacted a hunter heading back to camp after his morning hunt in northern Iron County. The subject admitted that he had a loaded rifle in the back of his pickup and had an open alcoholic beverage in the center console. The subject was issued a citation for the loaded firearm in a motor vehicle and verbal warning for the open intoxicant.
- **COs Alex VanWagner, Anna Viau, and Sgt. Brian Bacon** responded to a residence in Iron River for a fully engulfed structure fire. CO VanWagner contacted a couple of subjects who were in the residence when it went up in flames. CO VanWagner supplied extra clothing from his patrol truck to one of the subjects who was taking a bath when the fire occurred and did not have anything besides a blanket in the blizzard conditions. Another victim was taken to the hospital by EMS to be treated for burns. All subjects were able to evacuate from the residence. Also on scene were other Iron County police officers, EMS, and firefighters from multiple local fire departments.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** responded to a recreation trespass complaint in Iron County. The CO spoke with the complainants, who located blood and boot tracks on their property. They believed they knew who had shot the deer due to the amount of hunting blinds around their property. They had not given anyone permission to hunt or access the land recently. The CO contacted the suspects who admitted they shot a doe and knowingly tracked it to the private property and failed to ask for permission to retrieve the deer. The complainants did not want to press charges for recreation trespass, but the deer was retrieved illegally. The deer was seized and donated.
- **COs Alex VanWagner and Zach Painter** contacted a hunter about to head out to his stand in western Iron County. The subject stated he shot a 4-point a few days prior near Bruce Crossing. Upon further investigation, it was found the subject had purchased combination tags and the 4-point was tagged with a restricted tag. The subject gave the deer to a friend, and it was transported across state lines to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to be processed. A report requesting charges related to this incident will be forwarded to the Iron County prosecutor's office.
- **CO Jared Ferguson** was following up on a trespass on a local farm in Dickinson County that occurred earlier in the fall. CO Ferguson went to the property and found two individuals trespassing on private property and had corn feeders with approximately 100 pounds of corn on the ground while hunting. Citations were issued to both hunters for recreational trespass and feeding in the CWD bait ban zone.
- **COs Phil Helminen, Alex VanWagner, and Anna Viau** followed up on some illegal blinds on state land in northeastern Iron County. They followed ORV tracks to a blind that CO Viau had found the previous day. This blind did not have any identification on it and the ORV had been driven on state land where not allowed. Upon approaching the blind, the COs contacted a 13-year-old boy hunting. He stated that he was hunting alone and that he had driven the truck to the hunting location from his nearby camp. He had then driven the ORV to his blind. The boy told the COs that his dad was back at camp. The COs shortly went to the camp, where they contacted the boy's father. They advised him of the multiple violations. The father, who was recovering from a foot injury, said he normally hunts with the boy, but was really sore that day so he stayed home. CO Viau issued the man a citation for allowing a minor to hunt unsupervised and for no identification on the blind. He got warnings for no ORV license, allowing a minor to operate ORV unsupervised, allow minor to operate ORV where not allowed, and allow an unlicensed driver to operate a motor vehicle. While in the same area of Iron County, COs Helminen, VanWagner, and Viau checked another hunter who was hunting out of a blind that had no identification on it. The man received a citation for the violation.

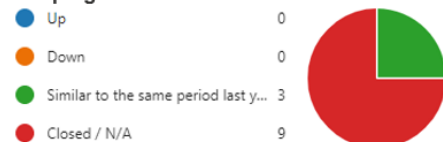
- **CO Shannon Wicklund** saw that a new business was advertising for deer processing. CO Wicklund stopped by the business to conduct a meat processor inspection. The business was able to provide permits from the Department of Agriculture along with a letter approving the business for wild game meat processing. CO Wicklund informed the business owner that they needed to register for the free commercial wild game processing permit with the DNR. CO Wicklund issued a warning to the business for failing to obtain the permit.
- **CO Shannon Wicklund** received a complaint about a subject who had shot a deer from the roadway onto state land. The complainant was able to provide a vehicle description and a partial plate. From that information, CO Wicklund was able to obtain a suspect. CO Wicklund documented the evidence of where the deer was taken and determined the deer was shot within the safety zone of a nearby house. CO Wicklund interviewed the suspect who admitted to shooting the deer and stated he did not realize he was within the safety zone. Charges for the safety zone violation will be submitted to the Menominee County prosecutor.
- **CO Shannon Wicklund and Sgt. Brian Bacon** contacted a juvenile hunter who was suspected of hunting over bait in a closed area. The hunter admitted to hunting over bait in the core CWD area, but the COs found several other violations. The young hunter had no hunter orange, did not have kill-tags in his possession, and had an unmarked blind. The hunter was escorted back to his vehicle to retrieve his hunter orange and was issued a civil infraction citation and warned for the other violations.
- **CO Shannon Wicklund and Sgt. Brian Bacon** assisted the Menominee County Sheriff's Department with the search of a lost person who got their vehicle stuck in a remote part of the county and started walking. The person had wandered into the woods, became disoriented, and was lost for several hours. The person was located without injury.
- **CO Shannon Wicklund and Lt. Jason Wicklund** were on patrol when they received a Report All Poaching complaint about an elderly hunter who wanted to self-report an APR violation. The COs located the hunter and were given the approximate location of where the deer was at. The COs located the deer and determined that the deer met the APR, much to the relief and joy of the hunter. This was the hunters 30th deer harvested in the past 19 years of hunting.
- Prior to the start of rifle season, **CO Shannon Wicklund** found an unmarked blind on state land that had more than two gallons of bait and had cut limbs from trees to maintain a firing lane. CO Wicklund contacted the hunter on the second day of rifle season. The hunter said that he thought the law was five gallons of bait and that his dad usually baits for the blind for him since he lived over an hour away. CO Wicklund showed the hunter a picture of the amount of bait she found, and he exclaimed "Holy crap!". The hunter was issued a citation for the violations and told CO Wicklund that his dad would be paying for the ticket.
- **CO Shannon Wicklund** contacted a hunter who had constructed an unmarked, permanent blind on state land. The hunter told CO Wicklund he was unaware of the laws surrounding hunting blinds on state land and that the blind had been there for several years. CO Wicklund issued a citation to the hunter for the unmarked blind and instructed him to take it down at the end of the season.
- **CO Jeremy Sergey and Sgt. Mark Leadman** received a complaint of an individual driving an ORV around a gate on commercial forest property to hunt. The COs located fresh ORV tracks when they approached the gate on the firearm deer opener. After a several mile hike through the snow, the COs located the individual's ORV and hunting blind. While the COs were approaching the blind, the subject inside fired two shots at a 7-point buck but missed. CO Sergey made contact and discovered he was not wearing hunter orange, didn't have registration for his ORV, and didn't have a helmet for his ORV. Warnings were given for the hunter orange and the helmet. Citations were issued for ORV trespass and operating an unregistered ORV.
- **Sgt. Mark Leadman and CO Jeremy Sergey** were patrolling near the Huron Mountains when an individual drove up to them in a truck. The individual started talking to CO Sergey about the hunting season when CO Sergey checked the individual's rifle and discovered it was loaded with a live round in the chamber. The subject admitted to just putting a round in the firearm for the last half mile trek into camp. A citation was issued for loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.
- **CO Jeremy Sergey** was patrolling Hemmings Lake Road on a narrow two-track when a vehicle approached him from the front and another from the rear. CO Sergey got out of his patrol truck to speak with the individuals when he discovered both vehicles had open alcohol containers, concealed pistols, and hunting rifles. After administering preliminary breath tests and a short investigation, a citation was issued for open intoxicants to one subject and those with a CPL were determined to have a legal alcohol limit below .02%.
- **CO Jeremy Sergey** was patrolling state land near McFarland when he found two individuals hunting from unlabeled blinds. The individuals admitted that they put the blinds up. The area has several unlabeled blinds left year-round. CO Sergey issued citations to the individuals for failing to have name and address attached.
- **CO Jeremy Sergey** was patrolling on Dishno Road when an individual drove by with an uncased rifle and shotgun in a pickup truck. CO Sergey could observe the firearms as he passed the vehicle on the narrow road. An investigation revealed the rifle was chambered with a spent cartridge. A citation was issued for the uncased firearms.
- **COs John Kamps and Jackson Kelly** contacted a hunter that was in possession of a 4-point deer, two points on each side, that was tagged with a regular combination tag. The deer was harvested in an area where the minimal requirement for the tag is to have at least 3-points on one side. Additionally, the hunter failed to validate the tag. Evidence was seized and law enforcement action was taken.
- **COs John Kamps and Jackson Kelly** checked a buck that was hanging on a buck pole at a camp. The COs checked the 4-point deer, two points on each side, and found it to be tagged with a unvalidated regular combination tag. Talking with the people at camp they determined it to be harvested by an individual that was hunting just down the road. The COs contacted the hunter to find him hunting without hunter orange. The COs obtained a confession from the individual for harvesting an undersized buck with a combination tag. Evidence was seized and law enforcement action was taken.
- **COs John Kamps and Jackson Kelly** followed a set of fresh tire tracks down a remote two-track. After a short distance, the COs came head-on with two hunters driving in a pickup truck. The COs walked up to the vehicle and observed an uncased rifle alongside the passenger. The rifle was found to be loaded. Two additional loaded and uncased firearms were found in the rear cab of the pickup truck. The driver of the vehicle failed to possess a 2022 hunting license and the passenger did not have one in his possession. The two individuals admitted that they were dropping small amounts of corn all along the two-track to road hunt. Citations were written to both individuals for possession of an uncased/loaded firearm in a motor vehicle and hunting without a license.

- **COs John Kamps and Jackson Kelly** checked a hunter who was traveling on an ORV without a helmet and uncased rifle. The COs escorted the individual back to camp where he could obtain a helmet and case for the rifle. A citation was issued.
- **CO Zach Painter** attended a community event in Gogebic County along with several other law enforcement agencies. CO Painter spent the day speaking with the public about what Conservation Officers do and answering law related questions.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** observed three deer hanging at a residence near Crystal Falls in Iron County, two 8-point bucks and a doe. One of the bucks did not have a kill-tag attached and the CO contacted subjects at the house regarding the deer. A female stated that her husband shot the buck that did not have a tag attached and her brother-in-law shot the other two deer which had tags attached. The husband was interviewed regarding the untagged deer and admitted to shooting it more than a week prior. He stated he forgot to tag it but also didn't plan on tagging it as he was going to process it himself and didn't think anyone would see it. CO Anna Viau responded to the residence to assist, and the COs observed that the tags on the other 8-point and doe were not validated and suspicious. An interview was conducted with the brother-in-law who shot these deer, and he admitted both the deer were shot on the same day without a license. He said the buck was shot in the morning, the doe in the evening, then the licenses were purchased after dark and attached to the deer. Enforcement action was taken regarding all three of the deer and a report will be submitted to the Iron County Prosecutor's Office.
- During a processor inspection, **CO Alex VanWagner** discovered an 8-point buck with a suspicious tag on it and went to a residence in Dickinson County to conduct interviews on it. The tag attached to the deer belonged to a female subject and she initially claimed to have shot the deer while road hunting with her husband. The husband claimed the same story, but further interviewing led to a confession by both subjects that the husband shot the deer from his deer blind without a license. The license was purchased the next day by the wife and placed on the deer. The CO continued interviewing the couple regarding prior deer seasons, and another confession was obtained that the wife bought a tag for a buck the husband shot in 2020 without a license as well. A report will be forwarded to the Dickinson County Prosecutor's Office.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** was going to check a lake in Iron County and observed a vehicle fishtailing on the road. The vehicle was stopped, and contact was made with the occupants, who stated there was a domestic assault in progress in Iron River. The CO responded to the residence with an Iron River officer. Interviews were conducted and a male subject was arrested for domestic assault. The incident was turned over to Iron River Police Department.
- **CO Shannon Wicklund** contacted an individual at a boat launch. During the conversation, CO Wicklund was asked what deer could be legally harvested with a combination deer license. CO Wicklund explained that a deer needed to have three or more points on a side. The hunter sighed and said, "I guess I am going to get a ticket then." CO Wicklund asked the hunter to explain further and was told that he thought a deer needed to have 3-inch antlers, not 3 points per antler. The hunter had taken a spike deer the week prior and put his combination tag on it. CO Wicklund asked for a picture of the deer and the hunter said he still had the deer's head hanging at his house. CO Wicklund followed the hunter back to his house and he produced the spike deer head with the combination license attached to the antler. The hunter received a citation for the Antler Point Restriction violation.
- **CO Jared Ferguson** attended the Felch Township Sportsmen Alliance meeting with special guest presenter Circle Power. Circle Power spoke to local residents regarding the solar energy project being constructed on state land and its potential benefits for the community. Circle Power assured the locals that this would benefit the local recreation opportunities with possible grants to develop and maintain the land.
- **CO John Kamps and Detective Josh Boudreaux** participated in Marquette County's annual "Shop with a Cop" event. Multiple kids from the Marquette area were able to Christmas shop for their families with assistance from members of local and state law enforcement agencies.

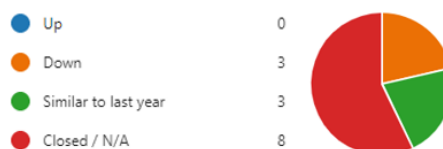
Parks & Recreation Division: Doug Rich, WUP District Supervisor

Use Statistics

Camping



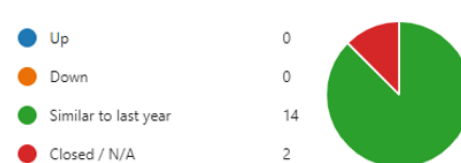
Overnight Lodging



Boating / Harbors



Trails



Day Use



Camping

Bewabic	We completed 14 oak wilt tree removals in the campground at Bewabic with the help of Lansing Stewardship Section staff and the BFO and EFO crews. We used the occasion to hold training on Stewardship's new vibratory plow. The training and remediation went very well.
Baraga FO	Worked on oak wilt tree removal at Bewabic SP.
Fort Wilkins	Water line project is still ongoing and will continue into May 2023
McLain	McLain is still under construction, and we don't have an official open date for the campground. Right now, we have a closure in place through June 15, with hopes to be open by Memorial Day weekend.
Baraga SP	Hunters and late fall campers utilized Big Eric's Bridge and Deer Lake SFCGs into late November.

Overnight Lodging

McLain	Lodging is closed due to construction. The Tiny House will be reservable this 2023 season when the campground opens.
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Boating Access Sites and Harbors

Lake Gogebic SP	Storm damage cleanup was performed at the South Branch of the Ontonagon BAS.
Escanaba FO	Early ice on Little Bay de Noc resulted in very high ice fishing usage at the Kipling Boating Access Site in late December. While fishing was exceptional, warm weather caused the ice to quickly deteriorate.
Copper Harbor / Eagle Harbor	Eagle Harbor Marina expansion project is underway with a tentative completion date anticipated in fall of 2023. There will be some minor impacts to boaters during construction
Cedar River Harbor	Fuel pumps and fuel dock docks are construction.
Baraga SP	Courtesy piers were pulled out at all sites by early November.

Trails

Lake Gogebic SP	Bridge rating signs were added to the area trails. Snowmobile liaison responsibilities were shifted from FRD to PRD at Lake Gogebic State Park. Lead Ranger Hocking has stepped into that role and has been navigating the challenges with the help of Jeff Kakuk and James Peace.
Escanaba FO	Office staff modified a foot bridge on Days River Pathway that was too narrow to allow for their new grooming machine to cross the bridge. Many trees along the trail were also removed to allow the tracked side by side to groom.
Baraga FO	Worked on the Bill Nichols trail slump and Lake Mine water projects.
Baraga SP	Snowmobile season got off to a good start with some heavy snows in early December and Christmas. Lots of riders were on the trails after those storms.

Day Use

Lake Gogebic Field Crew	The Lake Gogebic Construction Crew made repairs on the Twin Lakes State Park shelter building in November. Project scope included replacing the main beam of the roof of the structure as well as well as other repairs to the entrance of the building.
Fort Wilkins	Again, the waterline project has been extended into 2023 so there will be some minor impacts to day use numbers
Copper Harbor	Our traffic counter at Copper Harbor Marina recorded 72,000 visitors this past use season.
Baraga SP	Lingering fall tourists, ORVs and hunters used the ORV parking area through the end of November.
Bond Falls	As per normal, calls continue to come in regarding winter access and callers wanting to buy 2023 Non-resident annuals, people want them for Christmas gifts and so they are ready to visit in the spring!
Porkies	Opened the Ski Hill for the season on December 30th, with nearly 400 skiers on opening day.

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

Lake Gogebic Field Crew	The crew re-framed the entrance to the Folk School at the Porkies. Lighting upgrades and interior repairs were done along with shelving and storage containers for the rangers,
Bewabic SP	All seasonal staff on layoff status.
Menominee River	Oak wilt remediation took place and the Piers Gorge Unit with help from Stewardship Unit.
Porkies	Todd Penegor was hired as the new ski hill Maintenance Mechanic. Interviews were performed for the two vacant ranger positions.
Little Presque Isle	Planning and design work is being reviewed for trail work at Little Presque Isle State Forest and the Harlow Lake Fishing Pier. Construction is anticipated summer 2023.
Baraga SP	Seasonal rangers went on layoff mid-November after working on stream surveys for Trails Section. Efforts to fill the Lead Ranger 9 position (newly created) began. Park staff is currently assisting with vacant Accounting Assistant position at Van Riper Unit while filling of that vacancy is underway. Staff also are assisting with preparations for partnership projects with the National Guard in the district.

Design, Construction, and Capital Outlay Projects

Lake Gogebic SP	Planning has begun for park upgrades which could begin as early as 2024. Improvements will include electrical upgrades, sewage lagoon reworking, and site drainage improvements.
Bewabic SP	Waiting for consultant to give cost estimate for ground water monitoring wells at Bewabic SP for wastewater analysis in 2023.
Fort Wilkins	Fort Wilkins water / sewer upgrade project was anticipated to end winter of 2023 but will likely extend into May of 2023 and will impact some early season camping
Copper Harbor / Eagle Harbor	Eagle Harbor Marina expansion project is underway. Construction will continue through winter and tentative completion date anticipated in fall of 2023. There will be some minor impacts to boaters during construction

McLain	McLain is hoping to have campground construction done before Memorial Day, right now the electrical panels and pumps are backordered, and we are not sure about a project completion date.
Bond Falls	Work continues for the Bond Falls Phase 500 Stair Replacement with DTMB and GEI. Recent discussions focused on the retaining wall, permitting and the stair path / route.

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

Trail Specialist: Jeff Kakuk, Western Upper Peninsula

Snowmobile Trails:

- Sponsors are keeping up with trail use and conditions even with several groomers already parked from equipment breakdowns. Part availability is very limited and will continue to impact repairs.
- **UP122 (Houghton/Keweenaw Counties)** is currently closed due to logging on east end and a private land re-route. It is hoped to have the trail open by end of January.
- **UP15 (Iron County)** is currently closed due to critical elements determined in a bridge inspection. DNR is currently working with trail sponsor to place a temporary forestry bridge while long-term solution is identified.
- **UP1, UP100 and UP13 (Gogebic/Ontonagon Counties)** are heavily impacted by logging activities on the west and southeast of Lake Gogebic. DNR is currently working with trail sponsor to secure land permissions to re-route the trails.

Upcoming Projects in 2023:

- **Agate Falls Bridge** rehabilitation design will begin in spring.
- **Haanapaa Culvert** replacement will be bid out this year. This is on the Sidnaw to Bergland trail near Trout Creek.
- Washout of rail grade south of Crystal Falls will be bid out this spring. This is along the Paint River just south of the city.
- Design work on 2 miles of the **Bill Nicholls Trail** between Painsdale and South Range will occur this summer. This is to ensure trail options will complement the Adams Township Watermain replacement in upcoming years.

Trail Specialist: Rob Katona, Central Upper Peninsula

Project Names	Description	Trail Use	Anticipated Completion	Q1 Update
ORV Route Grading in Alger, Delta, Marquette, Menominee, and Dickinson Counties	Multiple projects for grading and smoothing ORV routes with multiple grades planned in high use areas to help prevent rough routes	Rail Trails & ORV Routes	Summer 2023	Working on work scopes requested funding to enter in PR database for approval. Projects will be advertised this spring.
Sturgeon River Bridge	Bridge rehab snowmobile Trail 2 in Dickinson County on State owned Rail-Trail	Rail Trails	October 2023	Project was awarded to Zenith Tech with work to begin winter of 2023.
Nahma Grade Multi-use Trail	Design and construction 3.7-mile multi-use Rail Trail in Delta County work includes clearing, surfacing and culvert/bridge installation	Rail Trails		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. Additional funding is necessary for both phases of the project.
Clowry Grade Bridges #2, #3 & #6	Design and rehab/construction of multiple bridges on this designated ORV/snowmobile multi-use Rail Trail in Marquette County	Rail Trails	November 2023	Needed to readvertise due to no bids, currently readvertising and seeking additional funding for bridge #6.

Clowry Grade Bridges #1, #4, #5 & #7	Design and rehab/construction of multiple bridges on this designated ORV/snowmobile multi-use Rail-Trail in Marquette County	Rail Trails	TBD	Currently in a holding phase for moving into engineering/design.
Clowry ORV Improvements	Continue filling low areas and culvert replacement on the Clowry Grade ORV C & CL Routes	Rail Trails	October 2023	Working on work scope requested funding to enter in PR database for approval. Project will be advertised this spring.
Little Presque Isle Rec Area Improvements	Trail repairs, parking improvements and boardwalk/bridge repairs throughout 42 sites at LPI recreation area and Wetmore Pond	Non-Motorized & Mountain Bike	November 2023	Engineering/design continues with construction in 2023.
Days River Single Track Trail Construction	Approximately 10 miles of single-track trail construction designed for mountain bike use	Non-Motorized & Mountain Bike	2024	Engineering/design has started with Rock Solid Trail Builders.
Tyoga Pathway Bridges	Replace one bridge and replace or rehab second bridge both spanning the Laughing Whitefish River	Non-Motorized	TBD	Currently in a holding phase for moving into engineering/design.
LPI Songbird Trail and Harlow Creek Bridges	Replace two popular pedestrian bridges on the LPI songbird trail and pathway to cabin #6 and north trail system	Non-Motorized	TBD	Currently in a holding phase for moving into engineering/design.
Genes Pond Pathway	Construction of 1.75-mile accessible pathway with scenic overlooks adjacent to state forest campground located near Ralph in Dickinson County	Non-Motorized	2024	Engineering/design continues however construction has been pushed out to 2024 due to federal bat protection requirements, tree clearing may only occur between October and March.
Laughing Whitefish Falls Bridge	New pedestrian bridge construction on NCT over Laughing Whitefish River at the Laughing Whitefish Falls Natural Area	Non-Motorized	TBD	Currently in a holding phase for moving into engineering/design.
Norway-Carney ORV/Snowmobile Connector Culverts	New ORV route/ snow-mobile trail development with several stream crossings requiring new culvert installation. New trail will connect the Norway ORV trail with Carney Lake Rd providing an east-west connection across Dickinson County	ORV/ Snowmobile	September 2023	Project is 90% complete. Final phase is to install large culvert on Cassidy Creek.
Days River ORV Route Grading and Gravel	Replace culvert, grade, shape, and fill Days River ORV Route in Delta County	ORV	September 2022	Working on work scope; requested funding to enter in PR database for approval. Project will be advertised this spring.
Marquette County ORV Routes Improvements	Repair large holes replace culverts and surfacing on multiple ORV routes in western Marquette County	ORV	September 2022	Working on work scope; requested funding to enter in PR database for approval. Project will be advertised this spring.
Forest Islands Repairs and Restoration	Repair damaged board walks and damage in low wet areas on the Forest Islands ORV Trail/Route in Menominee and Delta Counties	ORV	September 2023	Work continues project expected to be completed by early summer including additional work.
Felch Grade Surface Improvements II	Gravel capping on the Felch Grade in Menominee and Dickinson Counties	ORV	June 2023	Gravel capping was completed late fall of 2022. Currently executing a contract change order to include an additional 2.5

				miles of improvements and gravel capping to be completed by early summer.
Bass Lake Restoration	Perform reroutes around eroded areas.	ORV	September 2023	Working on work scope and PR submittal for summer minor construction project.
Gwinn-Arnold Improvements and Restoration III	ORV G route Marquette County filling, gravel, and culvert work	ORV	September 2023	Working on work scopes, requested funding to enter in PR database for approval. Project will be advertised this spring.
Delta-Menominee ORV Routes Improvements	Minor bridge railing and decking repairs replace culverts and surfacing work	ORV	September 2023	Working on work scope requested funding to enter in PR database for approval. Project will be advertised this spring.
Central U.P. ORV Route Dust Control	Perform dust control at multiple sites on ORV routes to prevent dust caused by ORV traffic in residential areas and other areas meeting criteria	ORV	June 2023	Working on adding additional treatment sites and executing the contract for early summer treatments.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Hiawatha NF ORV Routes	Nearly 100 miles of ORV routes proposed to be designated that would provide connectivity and looped riding across Marquette, Delta, Alger and Schoolcraft Counties	ORV	2024	Had meeting with USFS to review proposal they are conducting additional analysis with approval for some of the routes expected by January.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Norway Rock Motorcycle Trail	New single-track construction in Dickinson County adjacent to the Norway ORV trail	ORV		WLD denied no further progress will occur without their support.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Moose Mountain Reroute Snowmobile Trail 8 Three Lakes	Trail/bridge improvements and reroutes around difficult to groom areas. Logging operation on SCTC property to offset trail reroute costs	Snowmobile	Fall 2023	Proposal approved. Some additional work on the reroute needs to occur and in the process of a land exchange between the Snow Country Conservancy and DNR.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Days River Nature Trail	Designate and improve non-motorized pathway located along the Days River near Little Bay DeNoc	Non-Motorized Pathway	Spring 2022	EGLE permits have been obtained some work to occur this fall depending on funding.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Westwood Pathway	Designate and improve non-motorized pathway located on State owned property adjacent to Ishpeming DNR FO and Westwood High School	Non-Motorized Pathway	Summer 2022	Proposal has been entered and going through review.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Negaunee-Eagle Mills-Gwinn-Little Lake ORV Route	ORV Designate existing snowmobile trails that are already heavily used by ORVs. Designation will allow funding for maintenance and provide direction for community connectivity	ORV	Proposal submitted Summer/Fall 2022	Waiting on the final permits from landowners. Working with CN RR on opening IOHT crossing in Negaunee.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Little Lake – Chatham RR grade ORV Route	ORV Designate segments of existing RR grade and county roads to provide ORV connectivity between Chatham and Little Lake and beyond	ORV	Proposal submitted Summer/Fall 2022	Submitted title analysis request for determining ownership across several remaining gaps.

Fisheries Division: Darren Kramer, Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit

The following are the western Upper Peninsula fisheries division highlights for the period of period of December 4, 2022 through January 17, 2023, 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)*
- *Research Unit: Dr. Edward Baker, Dr. Troy Zorn, Shawn Sitar*

Current Events

- Equipment and gear storage was undertaken to allow for winter care.
- Staff are summarizing netting and survey data from the 2022 field season.
- Biologists are finalizing management prescriptions for lakes and streams, of which these management plans are written for 6-10 year planning periods. In addition to writing fisheries management prescriptions are the development of fish stocking requests for lakes and streams that are associated with these management schedules. Fish stocking requests are similar to past programs and no significantly new changes have been made.
- Northern Lake Michigan and Lake Superior Management Units held their annual work plan meeting to coordinate 2023 fieldwork schedules across the Upper Peninsula. A workplan coordination meeting was scheduled with Ottawa National Forest staff in early December as well.

Marquette State Fish Hatchery

- Fish culture:
 - Young of the year: Brook trout, Lake trout and splake fry will be coming out of incubation in mid-January. All goals are being met.
 - Yearlings are doing well with inventories of 71,600 brook trout, 111,000 Lake trout, and 172,000 splake. All brood lots are healthy and doing well. All goals for yearlings are being met.
- Cherry Creek Stabilization project: Substantial completion is delayed until late spring due to several issues.
- FY23 Capital Outlay: Brood isolation: Engineering is about 90% complete for replacing this outdated structure.
- Maintenance is modifying our offices so two Tribal Unit employees can be stationed in Marquette. This will include one Fisheries Biologist and one Fisheries Technician.

Thompson State Fish Hatchery

- Fish culture:
 - Young of the year: Chinook salmon are hatched, but still in incubation. All Chinook will come out of incubation in late-January. Note: Steelhead young of the year will not be spawned until spring.
 - Steelhead yearlings: all production goals are being met, with 611,500 steelhead yearlings in inventory.
- FY23 Capital Outlay: We are in the process of planning for replacement of the roofs of both production raceway buildings, for solar panels that will be installed this summer. The flat metal will be replaced with raised seem metal, giving attachment points for the solar panels without drilling holes through the roof. This is necessary because the expected lifespans of the roofs are significantly less than the 25-year lifespan of the solar panels.
- FY23 Equipment: Thompson will be purchasing a new Gator, 6" electric fish pump, and fish grader with DNR FY23 general funds for equipment.
 - The Gator will help us to access the coolwater portion of the hatchery without having to go on the highway and without having to routinely use a more expensive to operate hatchery vehicle.
 - The fish pump will increase efficiency during stocking by allowing the hatchery to not have to move the existing fish pump when loading from two different buildings plus create a backup for the facility in case the existing pump fails.
 - The fish grader is needed to replace an obsolete 40-plus-year old grader which is used to separate steelhead by size. This is a very important process for ensuring the steelhead stocked are large enough to smolt as yearlings.

Grading increases growth by lowering competition within the population and removes those individual fish that are not going to reach a critical stocking size that will allow them to contribute to the fishery.

Forest Resources Division: Tom Seablom, Western UP District Supervisor

- Field work for the 2025 YOE Inventory season started in October. The next WUP Open house will be for the Baraga unit on May 16th, 2023. Open House and Compartment Review schedules for the 2025 YOE are posted online under the Public Input section along with other state forest inventory information at: Michigan.Gov/Forestry.
- As of January 10th, 301 timber sale contracts are open WUP Wide. This represents 900,702 cords of timber on 50,221 acres, valued at approximately \$34.1 million. Included in this are 24 GNA sales representing 95,989 cords of timber on 5,370 acres, valued at approximately \$3.4 million. As of January 10th, 7 sales are available WUP Wide for the minimum advertised price. This represents 9,281 cords of timber. Find more information on State Forest timber sales at: Michigan.Gov/Timber.
- WUP Units are reporting 39 Active Timber Sales in the WUP totaling about 4,431 acres. Units report average to strong demand for aspen and hardwood pulp. The Baraga unit is seeing less interest in Hardwood sawtimber.
- Units have started on the 2023 FY timber harvest plan with about 13,500 acres planned for treatment. In addition, units have been working on road and bridge improvement projects. The Crystal Falls unit reports that the Black Creek Bridge near Loretto has been replaced and road is open as of January 6th.
- Although Wildfire activity is extremely low with the winter snows the fire protection staff is as busy as ever with equipment maintenance, training, and the purchase of new fire equipment.
- Starting January 1st open enrollment for the Commercial Forest Program I continues until April 1st. For more information on the Commercial Forest Program go to Michigan.Gov/Commercialforest.
- Forest Health staff have been busy with follow up on reported threats in the WUP. Staff evaluated reported hemlock mortality in northern Marquette County. No Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) was detected, site disturbance appeared to be responsible. They also evaluated reported red pine mortality in Dickinson County. No Heterobasidion root disease (HRD) was detected, damage was consistent with pine root collar weevil, a native insect.
- Welcome our newest employees to the DNR:
 - **Eric Purcifull** was hired as a Fire Officer at the Norway Field office. Eric comes to the DNR from the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest where he worked as a Forestry Technician in Timber, Recreation, and Fire on the Eagle River/Florence Ranger District. His other related work experience includes work on a prescribed fire and fuels crew with the non-profit L-A-D Foundation performing woodland and grassland restoration work in the Missouri Ozarks and Forestry Technician work on the Superior National Forest. Eric has an Associate Degree in Natural Resources Management from Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton, WI. He was born and raised in Madison, WI, gradually migrating north because he discovered exploring the woods and remote trout streams was much more rewarding than living in a big city. He is excited to be starting with the DNR and having the opportunity to learn and grow within his new position.
 - **William (Bill) Kolpack** accepted the WUP Senior Mechanic position. Bill worked with us previously as the Equipment Operator and left when he was offered a position at the Marquette prison as an Equipment Mechanic. Earlier in his career he worked in several different positions gaining experience in heavy equipment operation and heavy equipment repair. He jumped at the chance to work for the department again, this time as a heavy equipment mechanic. It is great to have him back and we look forward to getting our field mechanics back out into the field on a regular basis.

Wildlife Division: Dave Lemmien, UP Wildlife Supervisor

- **UP Deer Camp Survey:** The Deer Camp Survey is a UP wide cooperative effort between the DNR and numerous hunters for the 16-day regular firearm season. Survey materials were sent out to over 520 camp contacts before the firearm season to be completed and returned by cooperating hunters. DNR staff will analyze the data and will produce a report in mid-winter that will be sent to participating camps. Results range from sighting rates to hunter success rates and hunter opinions. This information helps us better understand the size, trend, and composition of the deer herd and the issues that are important to hunters concerning deer management.
- **Deer Harvest Summary:** This year's mandatory harvest reporting is already providing substantial data, giving us an unprecedented level of detail into the specifics of Michigan's deer harvest. Currently the database is showing 302,840 harvested deer have been reported statewide through all deer seasons. 23,768 harvested deer have been reported from the upper peninsula through all deer seasons (17,007 antlered, 6,761 antlerless). The top 3 counties in the UP for harvest numbers through all seasons are: Menominee (5,406 total reported harvests), Delta (3,683 total reported harvests), and Iron (2,314 total reported harvests).
- **West UP Bear Season Update:** In the Upper Peninsula, bear season ran from September 7th through October 26th. Based on check station data, the number of bears registered in the western Upper Peninsula (Bergland, Baraga, Amasa, Carney and Gwinn Bear Management Units) was 1043 compared to 994 last year (an increase of ~ 5%). Approximately 41% of the harvested bears were females. Preliminary data, including age and percent hunter success will be available soon.
- **Furbearer Seasons:** The seasons listed below require mandatory registration of the harvest by the trapper. Fur must be submitted to be sealed and a skull must be submitted which will not be returned. Skulls should be skinned prior to registration. - Bobcat trapping season in the UP (October 25 to December 26) opened early this year and kill tags were only available through October 24th. Trapped harvest must be registered no later than January 5, 2023. Bobcat hunting season in the UP is open January 1-March 1 and hunted harvest must be registered no later than March 11, 2023. Fisher and Marten season is open December 2-11 and harvest must be registered no later than December 14, 2022. Otter season in the UP is open October 25-March 31 and harvest must be registered no later than April 10, 2023.
- **Moose Survey:** Wildlife Division is currently conducting an aerial winter moose survey to estimate population size this month. The survey is highly dependent upon favorable weather conditions for completion. Thus far (as of January 10th) there have been 8 possible flying days but unfortunately, we have only been able to get planes in the air on 3 days. There are 46 plots to conduct the survey within, and 13 plots have been completed as of January 10th. Hopefully the weather will cooperate for the rest of the month. Results will come out later this spring.
- **Hiring:** The Wildlife Division currently has 2 vacancies within the UP Region, the Crystal Falls Biologist and the Soo Wildlife Technician. Interviews for the technician position are scheduled for the second week of January and interviews for the Crystal Falls Biologist should be held the last part of January and/or first part of February. Once these 2 positions are filled, Wildlife Division's UP Region will be at full capacity!

