



Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: July 2024 (Information current as of 7/18/2024)

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

Meetings/Events/Press Releases

Upcoming DNR Public Meetings

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

July 18	Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup, 10am (517-331-6219)
July 19	Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council, 8:30am (517-582-3220)
July 25	Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, Escanaba, 6pm (906-226-1331)
August 8	Michigan Natural Resources Commission, Detroit, 9 am (NRC@michigan.gov)
August 22	Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, St. Ignace, 6pm (906-226-1331)
September 12	Michigan Natural Resources Commission, Lansing, 9 am (NRC@michigan.gov)
September 19	Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, Ontonagon, 6pm (906-226-1331)
October 9	Joint Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, Marquette, 3pm (906-225-1331)
October 10	Michigan Natural Resources Commission, Marquette, 9am (NRC@michigan.gov)

UP State Park & State Sponsored Activities

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

July 18	Indian Lake State Park – State Park Turkey Tour
July 19	Palms Book State Park - State Park Turkey Tour
July 23	Michigan Iron Industry Museum – The CCC in Michigan
July 26-28	Fort Wilkins Historic State Park – Battery D 1 st Light Artillery Encampment
July 30	Michigan Iron Industry Museum – The 1820 Expedition of Lewis Cass
August 17	Wells State Park – Corn Roast
Sept 13-15	Van Riper State Park – Harvest Fest Weekend
Sept 20-22	Van Riper State Park – Harvest Fest Weekend
Sept 21-22	Wells State Park – Harvest Festival Spooktacular
Oct 4-5	Fayette Historic State Park – Fayette Fall Fest

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- 29 communities share \$24 million in Spark Grants for recreation projects (7/10/24)
- Equestrian trail to be discussed Monday in Marquette County (7/9/24)
- DNR News: Trails survey, birding bonanzas, BeBot cleanup, NRC meeting and more (7/9/24)
- NotMISpecies webinar: Invasive spotted lanternfly (7/8/24)
- DNR's surplus land auctions set for August, September (7/8/24)
- Showcasing the DNR: Roving robot behind cleaner beaches statewide (7/3/24)
- DNR News: Holiday safety, volunteering, aquatic invasives awareness & more (7/2/24)

- We need your help! Submit wild turkey brood sightings in July and August (7/2/24)
- Governor Whitmer Announces Michigan Signs Agreement to Protect Great Lakes from Invasive Species (7/1/24)
- Fall turkey application period open now (7/1/24)
- Ribbon-cutting Wednesday for new accessible playground at Baraga (7/1/24)

Grant Contacts

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| ▪ 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 |

July NRC Meeting Recap – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met on the West Campus of Lansing Community College on July 11. Major actions:

Director Scott Bowen approved [the results of the May 2 auction for oil and gas leasing rights on state-managed public land](#).

A decision by the director on [an order that would expand the use of e-bikes on state-managed trails](#) was delayed until next month's meeting because of revisions to the order.

The Commission approved:

- [A plan to use electronic harvest tags on a voluntary basis during the fall turkey season](#). The tags will be available only on the DNR Hunt Fish app for those hunters who are successful in the 2024 Fall Turkey Drawing or who are buying leftover tags. Our existing license agent or eLicense sales channels will not change. Those choosing to use the electronic harvest tags will tag their turkey on the Hunt Fish App by selecting a date of harvest. Those using the electronic harvest tag option will still be required to securely attach a homemade tag to the animal -- such as duct tape or other durable material -- with date of harvest, validation number issued from the app along with the license number used. The plan will allow us to test electronic harvest tags on turkey before potentially expanding the practice to other species.
- Deer regulations, following recommendations from the Deer Management Initiative, groups created by the commission to address contemporary challenges in deer management in the Upper Peninsula and Lower Peninsula. The Commission approved [the regulations](#) with a number of amendments. Further department and public communication will be coming soon on the action taken by the NRC today and the implications for deer hunters.

Committee of the Whole, Director's Report

Parks and Recreation Chief Ron Olson presented a Partners in Conservation Award to Wayne Gleiber for his years of work in the state parks system. Wayne first volunteered with the Parks and Recreation Division in October of 1998. Now, he works year-round to remove invasive species from Warren Dunes, Warren Woods and Grand Mere State Parks. He does a variety of tasks independently, including mapping invasive plants, surveying for oak wilt, leading invasive plant removal workdays, and training park visitors and staff on stewardship techniques. As of 2023, Wayne had volunteered nearly 6,000 hours. Chief Olson thanked Wayne for his years of hard work and commitment to the state's natural resources and to state parks in the Plainwell District.

Chief Olson then presented lifesaving awards to Royce Goulette, Joel Kubiak and Marien Lang of South Higgins Lake State Park. On June 3, Roscommon County Central Dispatch notified South Higgins Lake State Park staff that a person in

a group of kayakers had capsized 1.6 miles from shore and was unable to get back into the kayak. Park Ranger Goulette, Ranger Kubiak and summer park worker Lang immediately took the park's emergency boat to the sunken island on Higgins Lake and quickly located the group. After rescuing the first person from the capsized kayak, the staff responded to a second kayaker who had overturned and fell into the water. With both individuals secure in the emergency boat, staff retrieved the kayaks and returned the two kayakers to South Higgins State Park Supervisor Rachel Roberts' care. Goulette, Lang and Kubiak then set out to assist the two remaining kayakers who were exhausted and had drifted farther away from the park. Using his skill, Goulette maneuvered the kayakers to the park's boat launch. If it wasn't for the quick actions of these staff, the outcome could have been very different, Chief Olson said.

Tammy Newcomb of the Executive Division gave [a presentation on the Brandon Road Lock and Dam project](#). Gov. Whitmer recently announced [a historic agreement](#) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state of Illinois to cosponsor the construction of the Brandon Road Interbasin Project. The agreement devotes \$274 million in federal funding and \$114 million in state funding for the first of three phases of the \$1.15 billion project that will prevent invasive carp and other aquatic nuisance species from entering the Great Lakes. Brandon Road Lock and Dam near Joliet, Illinois, is a critical pinch point to stop invasive carp from moving into the Great Lakes. The Brandon Road Interbasin Project will implement a complex series of invasive carp and aquatic nuisance species deterrents. The agreement represents a significant milestone in the fight to keep invasive carp out of the Great Lakes, one that has taken many years, and Tammy was recognized for her pivotal role in making it happen.

Barb Avers from Wildlife [told the commission](#) about a new provision for the duck stamp because of the federal Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023. The duck stamp, which generates funding to protect wetland habitat, is required for waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older. The federal act implements for the first time electronic version of the stamp, allowing hunters to carry either an electronic or a physical duck stamp starting with the 2024-2025 migratory hunting seasons. The act requires some changes to the state Wildlife Conservation Order, which will be before the commission next month for action.

Law Chief Jason Haines, Wildlife Chief Sara Thompson and Chad Stewart of the Wildlife Division gave a presentation outlining the department's response to proposed deer regulations that were before the commission today.

A legislative report was also provided and 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 email: nrc@michigan.gov. Persons registering on or before the Friday preceding the meeting will be allowed up to five (5) minutes for their presentation. Persons registering after the Friday preceding the meeting or at the meeting will be allowed up to three (3) minutes. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the NRC Assistant.
- Look for the agendas and other Natural Resources Commission items at the Natural Resources Commission webpage (www.michigan.gov/NRC).

July Legislative Update – Chris Semrinec, Legislative Liaison

HB 5737 – Modifies Mentored Hunting Program – Rep. Aiyash: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to include minor children or adults with developmental or intellectual disabilities who are not able to obtain a certification of completion of training in hunters' safety to participate in the mentored hunt program.

- This bill has passed the House and Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HB 5824 – Modifies Department Spending Related to Wolves – Rep. Prestin: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit spending state funds to manage the wolf population unless wolves have been removed from the federal endangered species list and the NRC has established a wolf hunting season.

- This bill has been referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5873 – Adjusts Recreation Passport Revenue Distribution Formula – Rep. Mentzer: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to modify the formula for distribution of funds received from the Recreation Passport.

- This bill has been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5874 – Provides for Cultural Resource Management – Rep. Mentzer: This bill would define the roles and responsibilities of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the State Archeologist.

- This bill has been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5880 & 5881 – Creates Regulations for Large Watercrafts in the Straights of Mackinac – Rep. Hood: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to regulate large watercrafts in the Straights of Mackinac by prohibiting the use of anchors or drags in the bottomlands of the in the Straights and require the use of a Maritime Pilot to navigate in the Straights. Violations would be punishable by a felony. The Department shall be required to mark obstructions and emergency anchorage areas for safety with buoys or beacons in the Straights of Mackinac.

- This bill has been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

SB 937 – Designates Official State Insect – Sen. Lauwers: This bill designates the Isabella Tiger Moth as the official insect of the state of Michigan.

- This bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

SB 957 – Modifies Sales Threshold for Point of Sale Agents– Sen. Hoitenga: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to reduce the minimum sales threshold for license sales agents if they have been authorized to issue licenses for at least 5 years.

- The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

Eastern UPCAC Update

The **Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council** met in person in Newberry on June 5. Agenda topics included a presentation on the status of White-Nose Syndrome and updates on cormorants, wolf management (recurring agenda topic), the Deer Management Initiative. Written council questions submitted as a result of a moose hunt resolution response were also answered. Committee activity included the passing of 4 resolutions: allowing December crossbow use in a portion of the UP, opposing the proposed allowance of ebikes to access and utilize state park and state forest lands, recommending any increase in DNR Fisheries Division revenue through a possible license increase to include/provide deliverables, and opposing expansion of underwater spearing under regulation FO 219.25. Council resolutions, which are advisory, are sent to the Director for a response. **The next meeting of the group will be on August 22 in St. Ignace.**

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

Executive Division: Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy

On June 27th, the Conference Committee on Senate Bill (SB) 747 adopted the fiscal year (FY) 2025 omnibus appropriations bill for all state departments and agencies, which takes effect October 1, 2024. Both the Senate and the House subsequently passed the bill. The bill will now be enrolled and presented to the Governor for her consideration. If the Governor approves, the bill will become law. The DNR's budget can be found in Article 13 of the [concurred bill](#), beginning on page 857. A [House Fiscal Agency bill analysis](#) and [Senate Fiscal Agency bill analysis](#) are available for reference.

Conference appropriates FY 2025 ongoing funding of \$525.6 million for the DNR, of which \$67.8 million is General Fund. Conference also appropriates \$9.0 million in FY 2025 one-time funding for the DNR, all of which is General Fund. Added together, Conference appropriates total FY 2025 funding of \$534.6 million for the DNR, including \$76.8 million General Fund. Highlights include:

KEY ITEMS OF AGREEMENT

- **Law Enforcement Records Management System:** Executive and Conference add \$700,000 ongoing General Fund
- **Communications Equipment Modernization:** Executive and Conference add \$878,300 ongoing General Fund (\$400,000 for the General law enforcement appropriation and \$478,300 for the Wildfire protection appropriation)
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund Compliance and Stewardship:** Executive and Conference add \$151,100 ongoing (\$76,100 General Fund and \$75,000 federal)
- **Nature Awaits:** Executive and Conference deduct \$4 million ongoing General Fund, reducing the ongoing funding for the program from \$8 million to \$4 million
- **Capital Outlay:** Executive and Conference include \$12.9 million federal for Land and Water Conservation Fund projects; \$1 million state restricted for ORV trail development and maintenance; \$1 million state restricted for snowmobile trail development and maintenance; \$3 million for wetland restoration, enhancement, and acquisition (\$1 million state restricted and \$2 million General Fund); \$20.05 million for state parks repair and maintenance (\$18.55 million state restricted and \$1.5 million General Fund); \$8.3 million for state boating infrastructure improvements (\$1.8 million federal and \$6.5 million state restricted); and \$3.5 million state restricted for local boating infrastructure improvements
- **Fleet Rate Increases:** Executive and Conference add \$890,300 ongoing (\$23,000 federal, \$524,200 state restricted, and \$343,100 General Fund)
- **Accounting Service Center MiCaRS Contractual Costs:** Executive and Conference add \$120,000 ongoing (\$108,600 state restricted and \$11,400 General Fund)
- **Cultural Resource Management:** Executive and Conference add FTE authorization for 3.5 FTEs to support the reallocation of existing contractual services funding for three archaeologist positions and one student position
- **Archives of Michigan Transfer to DTMB:** Executive and Conference deduct \$1.9 million General Fund and 14.5 FTEs from the Michigan historical center appropriation line
- **Technical Adjustments to Align Spending Authorization with Available Revenue:** Executive and Conference add \$670,000 ongoing (\$570,000 private forestry and \$100,000 Fisheries Settlement) and deduct \$328,400 ongoing (\$326,800 Belle Isle Subaccount and \$1,600 Game and Fish)
- **Economic Adjustments:** Executive and Conference add \$6,890,700 (\$918,900 federal, \$5,362,900 state restricted, and \$608,900 General Fund)
- **Sec. 252. Invasive Species Fund:** Executive and Conference retain boilerplate to allow the DNR to spend revenue deposited in the Invasive Species Fund for invasive species immediate response efforts

KEY ITEMS OF DIFFERENCE

- **Recreation Passport Opt-Out and Resident Military Exemption:** Executive adds \$17.2 million of ongoing state restricted funding tied to a proposal to change the Recreation Passport to an opt-out model and exempt the state's active-duty military and honorably discharged veterans from the Recreation Passport Requirement; Conference does not include.

- **Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative's Border-To-Border Trail:** Conference adds \$1,749,900 one-time General Fund to develop and enhance the 35-mile, nonmotorized Border-to-Border Trail in Washtenaw County (Boilerplate added in Sec. 1201)
- **American Chestnut Restoration Initiative:** Conference adds \$500,000 one-time General Fund to study and implement American chestnut restoration and assisted migration of American chestnut or other species for the purpose of helping adapt the state's forests to climate change (Boilerplate added in Sec. 1202)
- **Mass Timber Market Development:** Conference adds \$1 million one-time General Fund to aid the research and development of a mass timber market in Michigan (Boilerplate added in Sec. 1203)
- **Phragmites Management Equipment:** Conference adds \$250,000 one-time General Fund for the purchase of heavy equipment to aid in the management of phragmites around the state (Boilerplate added in Sec. 1204)
- **Sportsmen Against Hunger Refrigeration Units:** Conference adds \$500,000 one-time General Fund to purchase refrigerated trailers that processors can use to store deer and processed venison donations received through the Sportsmen Against Hunger Program (Boilerplate added in Sec. 1205)
- **America 250 Commission Grants:** Conference adds \$5 million one-time General Fund for grants to state and local entities to commemorate the U.S. Semiquincentennial (Boilerplate added in Sec. 1206)
- **Upper Peninsula ski project:** Conference adds a \$100 one-time General Fund placeholder
- **Sec. 230. Transparency Language:** Executive removes boilerplate that establishes rules and regulations for special grants intended for a single recipient organization or local government; Conference retains and updates boilerplate
- **Sec. 231. Restricted Revenue Carryforward Authority for Private Funds:** Executive adds boilerplate providing restricted revenue carryforward authority for unexpended and unencumbered private revenues deposited in Private funds and appropriating private revenue received in excess of private spending authorization provided in part 1; Conference adds boilerplate providing restricted revenue carryforward authority for unexpended and unencumbered private revenues deposited in Private funds but does not include language appropriating private revenue received in excess of private spending authorization provided in part 1
- **Sec. 232. State Fiscal Recovery Fund Reallocation:** Conference adds boilerplate requiring that the state budget director take steps to ensure all state fiscal recovery funds (SFRF) allocated to Michigan under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, are expended by December 31, 2026; boilerplate also grants the state budget director authority to reallocate appropriated funds for specified purposes to fully expend SFRF, requires that federal provisions be fully met, stipulates that the state budget director notify the appropriations committees of reallocations that are made, and gives the state budget director and departments authority to make accounting transactions necessary to implement reallocations
- **Sec. 1201. Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative's Border-to-Border Trail:** Conference adds boilerplate designating the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative's Border-to-Border Trail appropriation in part 1 as a work project appropriation
- **Sec. 1202. American Chestnut Restoration Initiative:** Conference adds boilerplate designating the American chestnut restoration initiative appropriation in part 1 as a work project appropriation
- **Sec. 1203. Mass Timber Market Development:** Conference adds boilerplate designating the Mass timber market development appropriation in part 1 as a work project appropriation
- **Sec. 1204. Phragmites Management Equipment:** Conference adds boilerplate requiring that the Phragmites management equipment appropriation in part 1 be used to purchase heavy equipment for managing phragmites; intent is that a Marsh Master is purchased, with the stipulation that the equipment is maintained at the St. John's Marsh Wildlife Area and made available to localities and organizations that require aid in managing phragmites
- **Sec. 1205. Sportsmen Against Hunger Refrigeration Units:** Conference adds boilerplate designating the Sportsmen Against Hunger refrigeration units appropriation in part 1 as a work project appropriation; boilerplate also includes a provision allowing any funds remaining after the purchase of refrigeration units to be used to provide support for disease and fragment testing of donated meat
- **Sec. 1206. America 250 Commission Grants:** Conference adds boilerplate establishing an America 250 Committee, specifying the types of local and state initiatives that are to be supported by the grant funding provided through the America 250 Commission grants appropriation in part 1, and designating the America 250 Commission grants appropriation in part 1 as a work project appropriation; boilerplate also stipulates how the one-time funding of \$5 million is to be allocated:

- \$3 million for local initiatives, with \$1 million earmarked for two specific local entities (\$500,000 each)
- \$2 million for state initiatives, with not less than \$500,000 to be allocated to both the Michigan History Center and the State Archives for these purposes

FY 2024 supplemental appropriations for various state departments and agencies are also included in Article 16 of SB 747. This includes nearly \$6.5 million in FY 2024 supplemental appropriations for the DNR. The following FY 2024 supplemental appropriations for the DNR are included in SB 747 beginning on page 1017 of the concurred bill:

- \$3.6 million private funds from a Mellon Foundation grant to support a community-driven project to share Native American history more accurately and completely at the Father Marquette National Memorial in Straits State Park
- \$2.3 million General Fund to purchase and retire a state commercial fishing license that is no longer eligible for use due to the 2023 Great Lakes Consent Decree that prohibits state licensed commercial fishing in the Big Bay de Noc management unit of Lake Michigan
- \$2.5 million General Fund to provide additional funding for the replacement of the DNR Fisheries Survey Vessel *Steelhead*, which was built in 1966 and is assigned to Lake Michigan
- \$1.5 million General Fund to provide additional support for the Brandon Road Interbasin Project to keep invasive carp out of the Great Lakes
- \$561,900 General Fund to assist with the cost of one-time lump sum payments to eligible employees in FY 2024, as approved by the Civil Service Commission
- \$4 million General Fund reduction for Nature Awaits, decreasing FY 2024 funding for the program from \$8 million to \$4 million

SB 747 does not include the FY 2024 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) appropriations, which total \$23.3 million. The FY 2024 MNRTF appropriations are included in SB 817. Legislative action is still needed to resolve an item of difference between the versions of SB 817 that were passed by the House and Senate in May.

Fisheries Division: Darren Kramer, Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit

Management Unit Update

- The Munising/Grand Marias fisheries assistant for the creel survey program left the position at the end of May. The position was reposted with interviews scheduled for mid-June. Coverage for the month of June is being provided by staff from Newberry, Marquette, and Escanaba.
- Lake Superior Management Unit (LSMU) staff participated in a call with the National Park Service (NPS), USFWS, and EGLE regarding a dock improvement project on Isle Royale in Washington Harbor. NPS is looking to expand its existing dock for a new vessel (>175 feet). They also would like to add a helipad for emergency response. Construction is targeted for summer 2026.
- Numerous EGLE permits for dock structures, shoreline protections, and redesign of existing docks and armoring have been reviewed by LSMU staff for the Portage/Torch Lake system. There has been an increase in the development on this system in the last 5 years with many newly constructed homes.
- Various Fisheries Division representatives (LSMU, Tribal Coordination Unit, Creel Program, Research) are in the early phases of trying to design and plan a creel survey of Isle Royale in 2025 with our partners at the National Park Service and the State of Minnesota.
- Work began at the Republic Dam (Michigamme River) during the week of June 3rd to site materials and equipment to remove the dam and replace with a rock ramp structure that will allow fish passage. The project is expected to continue through the fall, and Director Bowen was able to stop by the site last week and chat with the lead engineer (GEI-Marquette office) during his trip through the U.P. Jennifer has worked closely with the engineer to formulate a mussel survey and relocation plan to relocate approximately 2,000 mussels (all Giant Floater) from the work footprint.
- Spring fingerling walleye were harvested from unit ponds, Thompson State Fish Hatchery ponds, and co-op ponds and stocked throughout the U.P. in late June and early July. All inland stocking requests were filled and overall pond production was about average as compared to other years.

Fish Production Section Update

- Thompson State Fish Hatchery has rolled out solar array output monitors on smart televisions in the visitor's center. The concept will be applied to the other facilities housing solar arrays in the near future. All completed in-house with the knowledge and experience of the Equipment Technicians.
- Muskellunge egg collections on the Detroit River went well receiving just over 600,000 eggs, creating 29 unique families. Fertilities were variable across the egg take. A portion of juvenile muskellunge will be moved to Thompson State Fish Hatchery coolwater facility during the summer for grow out and then harvested and stocked out in the fall.
- Steelhead at the Thompson State Fish Hatchery have been moved to the rearing tanks and have begun feeding.

Research Section Update

- Survey season on Lake Superior continues: After completing the spring Lake Trout survey on the south shore the Lake Char spent 8 days at Isle Royale surveying the Lake Trout around the island.
- Arctic Grayling research continues at Hunt Creek in collaboration with Grand Valley State University. Staff conducted electrofishing surveys of research area.


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

- A new roofing project for the crystal falls field office is being sought.
- Staff are in the middle of the 2024 license season. It is anticipated that customer activity will increase in August and September with several fall hunting application windows opening and small game season opener along with fishing license, ORV license and state park passport sales.
- Along with daily operations, many of our Western Upper Peninsula (WUP) staff have been engaged on committees looking at future customer service needs.
- The large HVAC renovation at the Marquette Customer Service Center will be substantially complete with only a few minor bulletin items remaining to close out the project. This project replaced the original system that has been in place since the early 1970's.
- Area managers have been working on developing and completing multiple minor construction projects (LED lighting, general facility renovations, health, and safety improvements) throughout the state.
- Plans for the UP State Fair are underway and we are looking for volunteers to help with the DNR Pocket Park. Shifts during fair week include:
 - 5-8 p.m. Monday (fair opening day - Aug. 12)
 - 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and 3:30-7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday
 - Noon-3 p.m. Sunday (final day of the fair - Aug. 18)

Volunteers must be at least 16 years old (unless under pre-approved circumstances) and pass a background check. A meal and T-shirt will be provided. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Jo Ann Alexander at 906-786-2351, Ext. 0 or alexanderj7@michigan.gov or Kristi Dahlstrom at 906-226-1331 or dahlstromk@michigan.gov.

Parks & Recreation Division: Doug Rich, WUP District Supervisor

Camping

Van Riper State Park	Camping at Van Riper State Park is down about 5% in 2024 from the same timeline in 2023.	<div><div><div>● Up</div><div>● Down</div><div>● Similar to the same period last y...</div><div>● Closed / N/A</div></div><div><div>1</div><div>8</div><div>2</div><div>3</div></div></div>
McLain State Park	Electricity still out in sites 1-91 at McLain. Emergency funding request sought, but this project will need to be engineered to find an appropriate fix and/or replacement.	
Baraga Field Office	Porkies - Nonesuch Parking lot expansion, Lake Gogebic - New culvert toward day use area, Baraga State Park - Playground landscaping, assembly, and parking lot construction.	
Lake Gogebic State Park	With above average rains this spring contributed to significant ruts in the campground. Campers have frequently become stuck on their campsites.	
Escanaba Field Office	While camping numbers seem to be down from last season, usage is more in line with pre Covid usage	
Craig Lake State Park	Camping attendance is down by almost 50% for May and June 2024 at Craig Lake State Park. Closures were put in place for all except the last 2 weeks in June to complete road improvements throughout the entirety of	

	the park and for renovations of the Large Cabin during the 2024 IRT training in partnership with the Michigan Army National Guard.
Fort Wilkins Historic State Park	Weather was a real challenge this period. I feel it accounted for a slight decline in camping.
Baraga State Park	Camping is down about 8% from 2023 but is still higher than pre-COVID numbers. State Forest Campground use at Big Eric's Bridge and King Lake was high and Big Lake and Deer Lake were similar to 2023.

Overnight Lodging

Little Presque Isle State Forest RA	Camping was up about 29% in 2024 at the Little Presque Isle Cabins within the Little Presque Isle State Forest. With good weather in early May, this may have contributed to the additional nights at overnight lodging.
Van Riper State Park	There are no significant changes for overnight lodging within Van Riper State Park for the 2024 camping season. Overnight lodging was up 1 night in 2024 from the same timeline in 2023.
Lake Gogebic Traveling Construction Crew	The Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew worked with Van Riper staff and the Army National Guard to rehabilitate the Miller Cabin at Craig Lake State Park, in June during the National Guard's two-week IRT.
Craig Lake State Park	With the 2024 IRT in partnership with the Michigan Army National Guard, Craig Lake State Park was closed for renovation. See photos below. This project represents a complete overhaul of the large cabin and brings back the historically accurate façade that the Miller family (Miller Brewing Company – Milwaukee Wisconsin) built in 1903.
Twin Lakes State Park	Overnight lodging was average for this time of year. No Modern Lodge re-opened.
McLain State Park	Cabins are open full season this year, Last year at McLain they were still closed.



Boating Access Sites and Harbors

Twin Lakes State Park	Many fishermen were using Misery Bay BAS and some at Twin Lakes as well. The other access sites received minimal use for these months. This was a pretty average year in terms of use for these sites for the time of year.	<div> <div>Up</div> <div>Down</div> <div>Similar to last year</div> <div>Closed / N/A</div> </div> <div> <div>1</div> <div>1</div> <div>12</div> <div>2</div> </div> <div> </div>
Baraga Field Office	Staff assisted with National Guard projects at Van Riper and Craig Lake SP BAS Sites.	
Baraga State Park	Use at boating access sites was high at Prickett Dam, Parent Lake, Silver River, and most of our Baraga County sites. Otter Lake / Dam in Houghton County were also fairly busy/	
Van Riper State Park	Boating access site use within the Van Riper State Park Management unit is roughly the same as last year. The weather allowed for courtesy piers to be pushed in a little earlier followed by some closures	

	due to some road and parking area improvements completed by the 107th Engineering Battalion of the Michigan Army National Guard in early June. See photos below.
Escanaba Field Office	Staff completed and assisted on multiple projects at both unit access sites, as well as other sites within the district including culvert replacements, grading, stormwater management, tree removals, material stockpiling, brushing, and vault toilet repairs. Sites included Gerald Welling, Hoist, McClure, Deer Lake, Big Shag, Groveland Mine sites,
Craig Lake State Park	Boating was down due to closures being put into place by Van Riper & Craig Lake State Park staff to make necessary roadway and parking area improvements. See photos below.

BAS Road Grading and Greenwood Reservoir BAS Photos



Forest Resources Division: Tom Seablom, Western UP District Supervisor

- Field work for the 2026 YOIE Inventory season has been completed. The next WUP Open house will be for the Escanaba unit on August 15th and for the Gwinn unit on September 19th. Open House and Compartment Review schedules for the 2026 YOIE are posted online under the Public Input section along with other state forest inventory information at: Michigan.Gov/Forestinput.
- As of July 15th, 323 timber sale contracts are open WUP Wide. This represents 1,038,072 cords of timber on 56,612 acres, valued at approximately \$37.8 million. Included in this are 25 GNA sales representing 111,086 cords of timber on 5,686 acres, valued at approximately \$3.5 million. As of July 15th, 6 sales are available WUP Wide for the minimum advertised price. This represents 11,691 cords of timber. Find more information on State Forest timber sales at: Michigan.Gov/Timber.
- WUP Units are reporting 21 Active Timber Sales in the WUP totaling about 2,201 acres. Units report Reduced bidding competition with sales selling but few producers bidding on sales. Larger producers are still active, but many smaller producers are doing contract cutting for larger producers.
- Units are working on the 2024FY timber harvest plan with about 48,026 acres planned for treatment statewide of that 12,010 acres are in the WUP.
- The fire protection staff have responded to 4 reportable wildfires totaling 2 acres since our last report. The department has conducted 1 prescribed burn in the WUP to improve wildlife habitat treating approximately 343 acres.
- The summer fire outlook is low as there has been rain every few days, so the fuels are continuing to remain moist. Drought codes are well below their normal averages for the year and are not expected to increase substantially unless there comes a long rain free period. Currently 11 fire protection staff are out of state fire detail, 3 of those are from the UP. The Division continues to seek opportunities for employees to participate in the national effort to enhance training and experience needs.

- WUP cultivation work continues this summer despite some mechanical breakdowns mechanical site prep (trenching) for planting of jack pine, red pine, and spruce has started. About 300 acres are planned for trenching by the end of August for future plantings. Also, herbicide spraying to prepare sites for planting of jack pine and red pine work begin in late June and will continue sporadically until mid-September based on contractor availability. Since last report about 150 acres of scarification for natural jack pine was completed in the district as well.
- Open enrollment for the Commercial Forest Program ended April 1st. Commercial Forest staff is working on preparing for spring-summer inspections of new enrollment applications. With the Retirement of Gary Willis Jason Caron will be filling in for that position until that vacancy is filled. For more information on the Commercial Forest Program go to Michigan.Gov/Commercialforest
- The forest health program continues to follow up on reports of pockets of mortality in established planted pine as we look for Heterobasidion root disease (HRD). No HRD has been detected in the central or west UP. Armillaria root rot has been found in several of the pockets examined. several reports of forest defoliators have been received. There's some spruce budworm, spongy moth, and forest tent caterpillar defoliation in localized areas. We will be doing aerial surveys to map the damage in mid-late July.
- Several new staff have joined the WUP staff.
 - Katherine Dorvinen, started as a Forest Technician in the Baraga Unit in June. Katherine started with the DNR in 2022 as a Michigan Wildland Fire Fighter where she honed her firefighting skills on a forest fire on Manitou Island. The following summer she worked as a forestry summer student out of the Baraga Unit. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry from Michigan Technological University this past spring and was hired as a Fire Officer out of the Crystal Falls Field Office in April before interviewing and accepting Baraga's Forest Tech. position. Katherine and her husband Esaias were born and raised in Stanton Township and currently live in Chassell, MI. Now that Katherine has graduated, their 5-year plan is to buy a house with property where they can start filling at least an acre with pre '96 F150s.
 - Sarah Boucher, started as the Escanaba Unit Secretary. Sarah comes to the DNR from working for over 10 years at Stupak Law office. Sarah has an associate degree in computer software from Bay College.
 - George Wilson, transferred to a forester in the Escanaba Unit. George was the GNA forester for the Shingleton Unit and previously worked as the Forest Technician for the Gwinn Unit. George has worked for the private sector out east as a Procurement Forester.
 - Sierra Rosten, started as a Forest Technician in the Gwinn unit. Sierra graduated from Michigan Technological University this spring with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry, Cum Laude. She will be completing her Masters in GIS online this Fall. Sierra started with the DNR in 2023 as a Summer Intern in Gwinn and returned this summer for a second internship. Sierra is a very energetic, motivated individual who is excited to start her career with the DNR. In her free time, Sierra enjoys hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling.

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

- **CO Jenni Hanson** was requested to present at a youth police academy hosted by the Michigan State Police. CO Hanson gave a presentation on being a Conservation Officer and how the various patrol tactics differ from general law enforcement.
- **CO Phil Helminen** was on marine patrol when he contacted three men fishing in a boat. The men stated they were not having much luck catching any fish that day. When asked to see their fishing licenses, two of them stated that they did not have a fishing and have not gotten a license in the past few years. A check of their purchase history showed they had not purchased licenses in several years. Both men were cited for not having a fishing license.
- **COs Anna Viau and Jennifer Hanson** taught a Beyond Becoming an Outdoors Woman class called Self-Confidence in Negaunee. The COs provided the women with safety considerations for going on outdoor adventures alone or in small groups. The women also learned some basic self-defense moves and they had a great time practicing their new skills on “Bob,” the human-like punching bag.
- **COs Cody Smith and Jackson Kelly** were patrolling on side-by-sides when they approached the “rock cut” in Baraga County. A group was standing around their ORVs when one person was observed throwing their can in the tall

grass. CO Smith gave a quick flash of the emergency lights thinking the individual would immediately retrieve their can. Instead, the individual looked at the patrol side-by-sides and then continued talking with the group. As the COs approached on foot, CO Smith asked the individual if they were going to pick up their can or just leave it on the ground. The individual stated, "I suppose I can" and began looking for the can. Enforcement action was taken, and a citation was issued for littering.

- **CO Cody Smith** was patrolling Keweenaw Bay when he approached a vessel trolling. CO Smith came along-side the vessel to check for fishing licenses, fish, and general marine safety requirements. After checking the basics, CO Smith asked the anglers if they had anyone else on the vessel. The reason for asking was he observed three people with 11 lines in the water. The owner of the vessel stated it was just the three of them. CO Smith asked how many lines they had out to which the owner stated nine. Both CO Smith and the vessel owner looked back and counted 11. CO Smith observed the anglers as they reeled each line in before stopping their vessel to complete a more detailed check of the vessel. Enforcement action was taken, and a citation was issued to the boat operator for fishing with greater than three lines per person.
- **CO Jackson Kelly and Sgt. Mark Leadman** responded to a report of seven cords of wood taken from a completed job site in Marquette County. A local resident had inquired about the wood but had not been given permission to take it. As the COs travelled to that suspect's residence, they located him operating an ORV on state land. The subject was not wearing a helmet and was operating off the roadway through a red pine plantation and running over numerous trees. When contacted, the subject had a nearly full can of beer in his hand. The subject was questioned and admitted to taking the wood. The COs followed him to his residence where the wood was located and photographed the piles of wood. Reimbursement for the wood is being worked out with the logger and ORV enforcement was taken by CO Kelly.
- **CO Jackson Kelly and Sgt. Mark Leadman** patrolled Lake Michigamme over the 4th of July holiday weekend and contacted a high number of vessels. A father and son in a pair of kayaks were located near several islands in the middle of the lake with no PFDs. The young kayaker was given a PFD, and the pair was followed back across the lake to their starting point. The father admitted that they were farther away than he had thought and crossing the lake with all the boat traffic was difficult. A citation was issued for the lack of PFDs
- **CO Jenni Hanson** was invited to the Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet's monthly board meeting. CO Hanson introduced herself and answered questions regarding boating regulations and invasive species violations.
- **CO Jenni Hanson** was invited to speak at the Ironwood-Hurley Rotary Club meeting. CO Hanson answered questions regarding ORV regulations, deer populations, and the alliance between the DNR and other federal agencies such as the US Forest Service and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission.
- **CO Phil Helminen** contacted a watercraft with one person on board. While speaking with the boater, it was determined that they did not have any PFDs on board with them. The boater stated that they did not realize they did not have any. A citation was issued for not having a PFD.
- **CO Phil Helminen** contacted a boat with two men fishing on it. One of the anglers provided a valid fishing license and the other handed CO Helminen an expired fishing license. When asked if he have a valid fishing license, the man stated he must have left it back in his vehicle. CO Helminen checked the man's fishing license history and found that he did not have a valid fishing license. A citation was issued for not having a fishing license.
- **CO Phil Helminen** contacted two people kayaking in Dickinson County. One of the kayakers was fishing. After checking the man's fishing license, CO Helminen found neither of the kayakers had a PFD with them. One citation was issued for not having a PFD.
- **CO Phil Helminen** contacted two people fishing from kayaks. When asked for their fishing license, one of them provided a fishing license and the other stated they had left it in their vehicle but did have a fishing license. A check of their fishing license purchase history showed they had a valid license. After checking license, CO Helminen asked if they have any PFDs with them. Both stated that they did not have a PFD and had left them in their vehicle. One citation was issued for not having a PFD.
- **CO Jared Ferguson** instructed a Marine safety course which involved Boy Scouts of America regarding their water safety and the advancement into Eagle Scouts. Multiple topics were covered including, marine, fish, game, and ORV laws.
- **CO Anna Viau** and Deputy Mike Webster put on an ORV safety class for Iron County residents. Twenty-two kids earned their ORV safety certificates.

- **CO Cody Smith** was on patrol when a local officer called for additional units on the radio for a traffic stop they conducted. CO Smith being closest responded to back up the officer. After the occupant of the vehicle was detained, a trooper was able to recover roughly 23 grams of suspected methamphetamine and associated paraphernalia.

Wildlife Division: Dave Lemmien, UP Wildlife Supervisor

Staffing Updates

- Please welcome Colton Flak as the Baraga Wildlife Technician. Colton has a bachelor's degree in wildlife management from Southern Illinois University. He most recently was employed with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks as a Black Bear Technician where he worked extensively with black bears and grizzlies. There he worked with hair snares for DNA and population research, investigating livestock depredations, trapping, immobilizing, and relocation of bears. Colton was previously a NCWA out of the Escanaba CSC during the 2022 season where he worked extensively on the crop damage program, dealings with nuisance wildlife, and assisting with numerous habitat improvement projects. He also has had experience capturing and handling deer while at SIU. Additionally, he has worked as a backcountry snowmobile and white-water rafting guide. He brings a diverse set of skills and experiences to Baraga. Colton is an avid outdoors enthusiast and has spent most of his life "recreating and exploring northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula".
- John DePue, the Baraga Wildlife Biologist, recently promoted to be the newly created Statewide Bat Specialist. This is a new position jointly funded with Forest Resources Division. John will serve as the Department's technical expert on bats and be responsible for coordinating the conservation and management of bat species in Michigan. Responsibilities will include implementation of the Lakes States Forest Management Bat HCP; coordination of bat monitoring including winter bat hibernacula and summer bat surveys; coordination of protection of bat hibernacula; providing bat-related outreach and education; and working with partners on bat conservation. John has a Master of Science in Zoology from the University of Wyoming, Laramie (2007) and a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Resources from the University of Idaho, Moscow (1998). He has worked in wildlife management for more than 25 years including 6 years as the Furbearer/Small Mammal and Bat Biologist for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, and 10 years as the Wildlife Biologist for the Baraga Management Unit with MDNR Wildlife Division. He has over 15 years of experience and technical knowledge working directly on bat conservation issues as the Michigan Department of Natural Resource's Bat Program lead and the state of Maine's Bat Biologist. His contributions to the field include work on the Lake States Forest Management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan development, implementation, and reporting; extensive coordination with researchers and conservation partners to monitor bat populations and disease surveillance; and work with MDNR staff and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff on developing bat conservation strategies, regulatory frameworks for state and federally listed bat species, and grant funding opportunities for bats. Throughout John's career in wildlife management and conservation he has demonstrated expertise in managing people, developing diverse research projects, writing grants, and working with a variety of stakeholders to successfully accomplish wildlife goals. He has demonstrated a collaborative approach within MDNR and with outside partners that has led to more productive and broader outcomes. Please join us in congratulating John as he starts this new role. He will remain stationed in the Baraga Customer Service Center.
- We will be moving forward with hiring the Baraga wildlife Biologist position immediately.

2024 UPR Goose Banding Efforts

- The UPR wildlife team set a new goose banding record this season. Our annual banding goal set in accordance with the USFWS Mississippi Flyway commitment is set at 300 birds. This year staff banded in Menominee, Marquette, Manistique, Baraga, Newberry, and the Sault areas. Wildlife staff working with LED, FOD, FRD, PRD, Volunteers, and tribal partners banded 500 birds and handled another 100+ previously banded birds. Tribal Partners from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and Bay Mills Indian Community assisted in banding operations. This provided an opportunity to foster and strengthen connections between the Agencies. Staff band this time of the year when

geese molt their flight feather and for about a month-long time window in mid-June /to mid-July when young geese are still dependent on adults and cannot fly as well. Staff conduct roundup where geese are herded into temporary pens set on shore using boats and kayaks, birds are then process by being sexed, aged, and banded (each bird gets a uniquely number leg band) before being released on site. The DNR does not relocated geese.

Escanaba Habitat Management Activities

- Joe Sage, Escanaba Biologist, and Colter Lubben, Escanaba Wildlife Technician, recently partnered with FRD to use their marsh master on a project to create 60 acres of wetlands openings in the dense cattails in Portage Marsh, south of Escanaba. By pulling an herbicide weed wipe to treat cattail regrowth in areas that were roller chopped last year. The intent is to improve hemi marsh / open water availability within the dense continuous cattail bed. This will improve marsh bird, waterfowl, furbearer, and fish use. Additionally, they are partnering with FRD to restore areas of pine-oak barrens in the Shakey Lakes area in southern Menominee County. Using a mulcher or FECON style machine to address dense aspen and midstory hardwoods that have filled in because of long-term fire suppression. The Mulching head will remove the encroaching aspen and other woody vegetation. FRD has grant funding available to do the work as preparation for prescribed fire. They are treating 94 acres, with a planned prescribed burn for 2025.

UP Winter Wolf Survey Results

- The 2024 winter wolf population survey estimate from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources found a minimum of 762 wolves in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This year's estimate showed an increase of 131 animals compared to the 2022 estimate of 631; however, the results demonstrate a continued trend of statistical stability in Michigan's wolf population.

"This year's survey findings are statistically consistent with our wolf population surveys for the past 14 years," said Brian Roell, the DNR's large carnivore specialist. "When a wild population reaches this stable point, it is typical to see slight variations from year to year, indicating that gray wolves may have reached their biological carrying capacity in the Upper Peninsula."

In other words, Michigan's U.P. wolf population has achieved an equilibrium between availability of habitat and the number of wolves that habitat can support over time.

The survey, completed last winter, found the population distributed among 158 packs in the Upper Peninsula, with an average of 4.8 wolves per pack. This year's survey represents the highest population estimate since 2012, when the department began doing the semiannual survey. The survey is conducted during the winter because it relies in part on identifying wolf tracks in the snow.

Prior to the winter of 2007, the DNR sought to count wolves throughout the entire Upper Peninsula. However, as the wolf population increased, this peninsula wide survey method became more difficult and time-consuming, especially the process of distinguishing among adjacent packs.

As a result, the department developed and evaluated a different sampling method to reduce the search area and allow additional time to accurately count wolves in neighboring territories. The new approach uses a geographic stratification – essentially breaking up regions into small pieces and ensuring those regions have representative samples – and produces an unbiased, precise estimate of total wolf abundance in Michigan's U.P. during midwinter when wolves are at their lowest point in their yearly population cycle.

The DNR is currently evaluating two other techniques for estimating wolf abundance in the U.P. One relies on a track survey like the department's current method. The other uses trail cameras spread across the UP. If successful, these additional techniques may have advantages over the current methodology, mainly by decreasing staff time. The camera model would have the added benefit of producing estimates at times of the year other than winter.

UP staff were involved in conducting the winter wolf track survey to determine an UP minimum count. The survey is a stratified random sample design with 13 of 21 units being surveyed this year. The survey requires staff to survey predefined areas using vehicles, snowmobiles, etc., to count and distinguish packs. Staff were successful in completing the survey even with the lack of snowfall to help in tracking. Additional tie was spent in planning

efforts due to the lack of snowfall this winter. Staff should be commended for accomplishing this task since conditions were less than desirable with very poor winter snow cover conditions.

Prescribed Burning

- Wildlife Division staff work closely with FRD fire fighters to put prescribed fire on the ground every year. Fire is very cost-effective tool for producing favorable wildlife habitat conditions such as managing large opening complexes, grasslands, and oak savannahs. The lush new growth that follows burns provide highly nutritious browse for deer, nesting habitat for bird species, and increased berry production. This year proved to be a productive year with the early spring and good conditions for burning.
- A total of six burns were completed in Iron, Schoolcraft, Marquette, and Chippewa Counties. A total of 975 acres were successfully burned without any issues. The largest burn was 355 acres in schoolcraft, and the smallest was 1 acre burning Marquette County were staff tried a new treatment to remove woody vegetation from a wetland dam as opposed to hand cutting or chemical treatment. Additional summer and fall burns are planned if weather and ground conditions are suitable.
- Wildlife division has 8 UP regional staff who are fire qualified, and this greatly increases the manpower pool available to augment FRD professional fire management staff.

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

Trail Specialist: Jeff Kakuk, Western Upper Peninsula

- Snowmobile Trails
 - Trail Sponsors have submitted their 2025 snowmobile grant applications and PRD unit contacts are now reviewing them.
 - 2024 Special maintenance projects are in process as well as planning for re-routes and work arounds for trail connections in the upcoming season.
- ORV Trails
 - Grant sponsors are out maintaining the trail network and construction projects are in process or out for bid.
 - DNR dust control contract was finally awarded and WUP segments were treated the week of July 8th.

Trail Specialist: Rob Katona, Central Upper Peninsula

Project Name: ORV Route Grading Alger, Delta, Marquette, Menominee, and Dickinson Counties	Project Name: Snowmobile Trail 2 Dickinson County Bridges/Culverts	Project Name: Nahma Grade Multi-use Trail	Project Name: Clowry Grade Bridge #6
Description: Multiple projects for grading and smoothing ORV routes with multiple grades planned in high use areas to help prevent rough routes.	Description: Replace two bridges with large bottomless culverts or new bridges depending on EGLE permit.	Description: Design and construction 3.7 mile multi-use Rail-Trail in Delta County work includes clearing, surfacing and culvert/bridge installation.	Description: Design and rehab/construction of multiple bridges on this designated ORV/snowmobile multi-use Rail-Trail in Marquette County.
Trail Use: Rail Trails & ORV Routes	Trail Use:	Trail Use: Rail Trails	Trail Use: Rail Trails
Anticipated Completion: Summer/Fall 2024	Anticipated Completion: Fall 2024	Anticipated Completion: Summer/Fall 2024	Anticipated Completion: Completed
Q4 Update: Some projects have been awarded to contractors, others are being prepared to advertise.	Q4 Update: Project was awarded.	Q4 Update: Going through DTMB process as AGY project. Surfacing and grading is occurring.	Q4 Update: Design is near 100% Will need additional funding for construction.

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: Continue filling low areas and culvert replacements 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: TBD	Anticipated Completion: Fall 2024	Anticipated Completion: October 2024	Anticipated Completion: 2025
Q4 Update: Recently received some funding.	Q4 Update: Project is being prepared to advertise.	Q4 Update: Construction has begun. Good progress.	Q4 Update: Tentative letting is now later, late fall.

Project Name: Tyoga Pathway Bridges	Project Name: LPI Songbird Trail and Harlow Creek Bridges	Project Name: Laughing Whitefish Falls Bridge	Project Name: Genes Pond Pathway
Description: Replace one bridge and replace or rehab second bridge both spanning the Laughing Whitefish River.	Description: Replace two popular pedestrian bridges on the LPI songbird trail and pathway to cabin #6 and north trail system.	Description: New pedestrian bridge construction on NCT over Laughing Whitefish River at the Laughing Whitefish Falls Natural Area.	Description: Construction of 1.75 mile accessible pathway with scenic overlooks adjacent to state forest campground located near Ralph in Dickinson County.
Trail Use: Nonmotorized	Trail Use: Nonmotorized	Trail Use: Nonmotorized	Trail Use: Nonmotorized
Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: 2025
Q4 Update: No new updates.	Q4 Update: No new updates.	Q4 Update: No new updates.	Q4 Update: Design is complete going through final MDOT process before letting which is now tentative for late summer.

Project Name: Forest Islands Trailhead Improvements	Project Name: Felch Grade Surface Improvements III	Project Name: Gwinn-Arnold Improvements and Restoration IV	Project Name: Marquette County ORV Routes Improvements
Description: Using remaining funds from open contract to improve two trailheads on this trail system. Work includes expanding parking, filling low areas, constructing a picnic area with tables and grills and creating accessible walkways to new picnic area and facilities.	Description: Gravel capping on the Felch Grade in Menominee and Delta Counties	Description: ORV G route Marquette County filling, gravel, and culvert work.	Description: Repair large holes replace culverts and surfacing on multiple ORV routes in Marquette County
Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV
Anticipated Completion: Summer 2024	Anticipated Completion: Summer/Fall 2024	Anticipated Completion: Summer/Fall 2024	Anticipated Completion: Summer/Fall 2024
Q4 Update: This is complete. It turned out outstanding. A great tribute to Tim Kobasic.	Q4 Update: Work has been completed in dust control areas working on scopes for other projects.	Q4 Update: No new updates.	Q4 Update: No new updates.

Project Name: Delta-Menominee ORV Routes Improvements	Project Name: Central U.P. ORV Route Dust Control	PROPOSAL: Hiawatha NF ORV Routes Proposal	PROPOSAL: Ishpeming-Negaunee-Sands ORV Routes Proposal
Description: Minor bridge railing and decking repairs on Felch Grade, replace culverts and surfacing work	Description: Perform dust control at multiple sites on ORV routes to prevent dust caused by ORV traffic in residential areas and other areas meeting criteria.	Description: Nearly 100 miles of ORV routes proposed to be designated that would provide connectivity and looped riding across Marquette, Delta, Alger and Schoolcraft Counties.	Description: ORV routes that would provide connectivity to several communities and looped riding opportunities in central Marquette County. Proposals are pending securing land permissions and/or trail easements.
Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV
Anticipated Completion: September 2024	Anticipated Completion: June 2024	Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: TBD
Q4 Update: Some work has been completed and others awarded to contract.	Q4 Update: Dust control complete.	Q4 Update: Scheduling a meeting with USFS to inform new USFS staff.	Q4 Update: Meetings scheduled with Negaunee & Ishpeming to discuss proposal, reached out to MCRC. Received initial approval from MDOT for ORV connector on M35.

PROPOSAL: Negaunee ORV Extension	PROPOSAL: Little Lake – Chatham RR grade ORV Route Proposal	PROPOSAL: Westwood Pathway	PROPOSAL: Eagle Mills-Gwinn- Little Lake ORV Route Proposal
Description: Extend ORV route in Negaunee along IOHT to provide legal RR crossing and access to roads/routes open to ORVs to the east. Work will include new trail construction and large culvert installation. Snowmobile trail will be relocated off of non-motorized IOHT to new trail segment.	Description: ORV Designate segments of existing RR grade and county roads to provide ORV connectivity between Chatham and Little Lake and beyond.	Description: Designate and improve non-motorized pathway located on State owned property adjacent to Ishpeming DNR FO and Westwood High School	Description: ORV Designate existing snowmobile trails that are already heavily used by ORVs. Designation will allow funding for maintenance and provide direction for community connectivity.
Trail Use: ORV & Snowmobile	Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: Non-motorized Pathway	Trail Use: ORV
Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: Proposal submitted Summer/Fall 2025	Anticipated Completion: Summer 2024	Anticipated Completion: Summer 2024
Q4 Update: EGLE permit secured, property was purchased and per-bid meeting for construction is end of May.	Q4 Update: Analysis complete, waiting on AG to review and provide opinion.	Q4 Update: No new updates.	Q4 Update: Trail is open. It is being signed this week.