



## Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: March 2023 (Information current as of 3/14/2023)

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

### *UP Field Deputy Update – Stacy Haughey*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2, 2023

## Governor Whitmer Makes Appointments to University Governing Boards, Other Boards and Commissions

**LANSING, Mich.** — Today, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced the following appointments to the Central Michigan University Board of Trustees, Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents, Ferris State University Board of Trustees, Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees, Northern Michigan University Board of Trustees, Western Michigan University Board of Trustees, Mackinac Straits Corridor Authority, **Natural Resources Commission**, Michigan Tax Tribunal, and Michigan Women's Commission.

### Natural Resources Commission

**David Nyberg, of Marquette**, has served as the Executive Director of Business Engagement and Economic Development at Northern Michigan University since 2018. Prior to his current position he served as the Director of Governor Snyder's Northern Michigan office. He holds a Juris Doctorate and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, both from Michigan State University. Mr. Nyberg is reappointed to represent Independents for a term commencing February 2, 2023 and expiring December 31, 2026.

**John Walters, of Gaylord**, is the Territory Sales Manager for Palmer Donavin. Prior to this, he held similar roles for Capital Lumber, Roseburg Forest Products, and Weyerhaeuser. Walters served on the Natural Resources Commission from 2018 to 2020 and was chair of the Fisheries and Wildlife committee during that time. He also served on the Rural Development Fund Board and the Natural Resources Advisory Council under Governor Snyder. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Northern Michigan University. Mr. Walters is appointed to represent Republicans for a term commencing February 2, 2023 and expiring December 31, 2026. He succeeds Keith Creagh whose term has expired.

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

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

### *Meetings/Events/Press Releases*

#### **DNR Public Meetings – Future Dates**

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.

March 14	Fisheries Division Conversations & Coffee, Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit, 7pm ( <a href="mailto:kramerd@michigan.gov">kramerd@michigan.gov</a> )
March 14	Michigan Iron Industry Museum Advisory Board, 3pm (906-475-7857)
March 16	Board of Foresters, 9am (989-370-9557)
March 16	ORV Advisory Workgroup, 2pm (517-331-3790)
March 21	Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, Marquette (906-226-1331)
March 23	Trails Advisory Council, 1pm (517-331-6219)

March 24	Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council, 10am (517-582-3220)
March 29	Fisheries Division Conversations & Coffee, Lake Superior Management Unit, 6:30 p.m. (hanchinp@michigan.gov)
April 16	Forest Resources Division-Baraga Management Unit, Public Comment Period Begins (906-201-4688)
April 13	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, 9 am (517-331-7792)
April 26	Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, Newberry (906-226-1331)
May 17	Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, Iron Mountain (906-226-1331)

## **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](#)

March-April	No UP State Park Activities—Check Back in May!
June 10-11	Free ORV Weekend / Free Fishing Weekend
August 14-21	DNR Pocket Park Open during the UP State Fair in Escanaba

## **Recent DNR Press Releases**

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

- Showcasing the DNR: Helping ospreys (3/9/23)
- 2023 spring turkey drawing results available (3/6/23)
- Wisconsin man dies in snowmobile-groomer crash in Iron County (3/3/23)
- Showcasing the DNR: Celebrating women in STEM (3/2/23)
- State awards \$3.6 million for invasive species projects (3/1/23)
- DNR News: Tree tips, safety smarts, March events and volunteer days (2/28/23)
- March DNR meetings: land review, fisheries, wildlife, parks and more (2/27/23)
- Talk with fisheries staff at spring 'Conversations & Coffee' meetings (2/27/23)
- Showcasing the DNR: Supporting communities by donating confiscated game (2/23/23)
- DNR News: Happy Little 5K, Wheels to Woods, Shoreline and Shallows and more (2/23/23)
- Conservation officer helps stranded snowmobilers in northern Luce County (2/17/23)
- 2022 deer hunting season recap (2/17/23)
- DNR announces \$100,000 available for UP Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership grants (2/17/23)

## **Grant Contacts**

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

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

## ***March NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer***

The Natural Resources Commission met at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire on March 9, 2023. Major actions:

The Commission approved new bear regulations for the 2023-2024 seasons. Under these regulations, license quotas for the Upper Peninsula will be reduced, as will quotas for the Northern Lower Peninsula. In consultation with the Bear Forum, the Department recommended and the Commission approved a number of other regulatory changes, all detailed in [a presentation to the NRC last month](#) from Cody Norton of the Wildlife Division.

Acting Deputy Scott Whitcomb, on behalf of Acting Director Shannon Lott, approved:

- Continuing to allow the use of electronic trap monitors by wildlife damage and nuisance control animal businesses. Three-year trial regulations allowing electronic monitors sunset on Feb. 28, 2023. This action removes that sunset so the use of electronic monitors can continue, provided certain conditions are met.
- Five land transactions. Details can be found in the NRC agenda.

### **Fisheries Committee**

Gary Whelan of the Fisheries Division gave a presentation on temperature triggered fishing regulations for salmonids on Michigan streams. The salmonid family includes brown trout, brook trout and rainbow trout. These fish grow best in streams that are about 60 degrees Fahrenheit, which is why some states – including Montana, Oregon, and Colorado – tie regulations to stream temperatures. An analysis conducted by our Fisheries staff concluded that the number of states that link regulations and stream temperatures is relatively few. The analysis also found little evidence that these regulations are effective in protecting trout populations. Michigan has different food resources for fish populations than other states, and we have less fishing pressure than western states during periods of hot weather. Climate change is likely to affect habitat on some streams in the future and make some waters inhospitable to trout. But Michigan streams aren't well suited to temperature triggered regulations, Gary said. Rather than instituting regulations, Gary suggested encouraging voluntary efforts among anglers to avoid fishing when stream temperatures are above 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

### **Wildlife Committee**

Chad Stewart of the Wildlife Division talked to the committee about urban deer management. Urban deer typically have high survival rates and limited geographic range, along with high reproduction rates. As an example, in 1928 six deer were introduced into the University of Michigan's George Reserve in Livingston County. By 1934, the population had grown to 180 deer. The next year, the population stood at 222. Growing urban deer populations can cause conflicts with humans – car-deer accidents and destruction of ornamental plants, for instance -- and can affect human health through transmission of Lyme disease. The department has established procedures for helping communities manage urban deer populations. The department's first goal is to help communities define their concerns – focusing not on the number of deer but on the impacts those deer are having – and presenting a number of options. Those options, each carrying pros and cons, include everything from nonlethal methods to hunting and sharpshooting. Chad also discussed the problem of individual deer in distress. This year several deer got their heads caught in plastic pumpkins. These situations usually resolve themselves, but Chad pointed out that only the department has legal authority to tranquilize deer. Chad used Meridian Township in Ingham County as an example of a community that has done successful urban deer management, garnering broad public acceptance. Chad also pointed to a program in Oakland County to coordinate community efforts to manage deer at a regional level.

### **Committee of the Whole**

Law Enforcement Division Chief David Shaw presented a lifesaving award to Sgt. William Webster. On Nov. 11, 2022, Sgt. Webster was on patrol when a radio call advised that a vehicle had driven off the roadway into water at the Charlevoix Marina. Sgt. Webster responded. When he arrived, he saw a truck fully submerged at a boat slip. Witnesses said nobody had exited the vehicle after it went into the water. Sgt. Webster removed his duty belt, grabbed a personal flotation device, and jumped in. Once in the water, he was able to pry open the passenger side door and free an unresponsive man from the vehicle. An ambulance was called, and the victim was brought onto the dock. Sgt. Webster placed him into a recovery position and used compressions to clear his airways of water. Once the water was cleared from the victim's airways, the man began breathing on his own. Sgt. Webster was able to stabilize the victim until the ambulance arrived. Sgt. Webster's quick response, emergency medical assistance and courageous actions saved the man's life.

Dustin Isenhoff of Wildlife presented highlights from the 2022 Wildlife Division Annual Report.

Barb Avers of the Wildlife Division told the commission about proposed regulations for the 2023-2024 migratory bird hunting seasons. The department is recommending minor changes to teal season dates to eliminate overlapping seasons.

Lt. Jeff Rabbers from the Law Enforcement Division told the commission about proposed changes to regulations governing the use of dogs to track wounded big game such as elk, deer and bear. In a change from current practice, the proposed changes would permit a certified tracker to allow a dog off the leash, provided the tracker has control of the dog.

A report detailing legislation affecting the department was provided to commissioners (and listed below).

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### ***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](mailto:nrc@michigan.gov).
- If you would like further information or would like to address the Commission, please contact the NRC Assistant at 517-331-7792 or email: [nrc@michigan.gov](mailto: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](http://www.michigan.gov/NRC)).

### ***March 2023 Legislative Updates – Legislative & Legal Affairs Office***

**SB 52 – Eliminate Penal Code Violation for Not Reporting a Deer Harvest within 72 Hours – Sen. Cherry:** This bill amends Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to eliminate the misdemeanor penal code violation for not reporting a deer harvest or not retaining a deer harvest confirmation number.

- The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

**SB 59 – Modify Definition of a Peace Officer in the Mental Health Code – Sen. Cherry:** 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.

- The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary and Public Safety.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

**SBs 103, 104, 105 – Provide Regulations for Commercial Hunting and Sport Fishing Guides – Sens. Cherry, Daley and McCann:** These bills would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide for the licensure and regulation of commercial hunting and sport fishing guides and to provide the Natural Resources Commission with the exclusive authority to regulate hunting and fishing guides.

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

**HB 4102 – Require the Department to reestablish wolves in the Lower Peninsula – Rep. Markkanen:** This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department to reestablish a viable and self-sustaining wolf population in the Lower Peninsula by 2025.

- 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 4135 – Prohibits the Natural Resources Commission from issuing an order to require harvest reporting – Rep. Friske:** This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit the Natural Resources Commission from issuing orders or interim orders that require hunters to report their harvest or retain a harvest confirmation number. The bill also eliminates violations related to harvest reporting.

- 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.

*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 for a virtual work session on February 15<sup>th</sup>, similar in fashion to the Western UP Citizen's Advisory Council's work session on January 18<sup>th</sup>. The work session was an opportunity to review the summary and recommendations from the MSU-facilitated survey/planning sessions last October/November. The agenda was paired back to allow adequate time for review and planning and did not include any action items or natural resource topics. Staff attendance was not requested. Additional items on the agenda included a review of the Council's role and expectation through the UPCAC Charter and EUPAC Bylaws, approval of 2023 meeting dates and locations, determine agenda topics for each meeting throughout the year, committee involvement for 2023, and the CAC selection process update.

More information on both the Western and Eastern CACs can be found at [www.michigan.gov/upcac](http://www.michigan.gov/upcac).

## *Division Updates*

### **Fisheries Division: Darren Kramer, Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit**

On behalf of the following UP Fisheries Division staff as follows:

- Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit: Darren Kramer, John Bauman, Jennifer Johnson.
- Lake Michigan Unit Basin Coordinator: Jay Wesley
- Lake Superior Unit Basin Coordinator: Patrick Hanchin
- West Lake Superior Management Unit: George Madison
- Fish Production Unit: Dan Sampson (Thompson, Marquette, Oden Hatcheries)
- Research Unit: Dr. Edward Baker, Dr. Troy Zorn, Shawn Sitar

The following are the western UP Fisheries Division highlights for the period of January 17, 2023 through March 20, 2023.

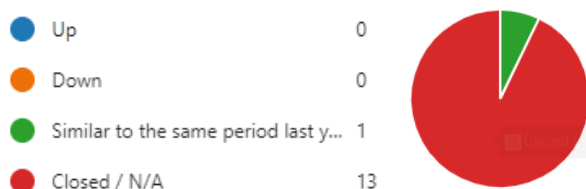
- **Current Events:** January and February are traditionally the seasons for writing survey summary analysis reports, committee meetings, and work planning.
- **Meetings:** The following fisheries topics meetings were held during the past two months:
  - 1842 Tribal Nations coordination meeting to review spear harvest recommendations, walleye rearing objectives, habitat management, sport fishing regulations. Nothing new to report for the 2023 season. Tribal staff practice good science and oversight with natural resources management in the western UP.
  - DNR Fisheries staff had discussions about beaver influences on coldwater trout streams and possible research projects to further evaluate beaver dynamics on trout waters.
  - The 2023 freshwater burbot netting season concluded on February 28<sup>th</sup>. This netting activity was once a popular Yooper tradition and this activity has diminished down to only two trappers this year, both having poor catches.
  - A Division "Resource Inventory Team" (RIT) Committee" meeting was held in Gaylord in January. The Division Resource Inventory Team evaluates how fisheries data is collected statewide so that surveys from one area can be equally compared to surveys in other areas. Additionally having common survey collection techniques allows for the State to evaluate lakes and streams region wide and compare with other neighboring Great Lake states.
  - A Lake Superior Basin Team meeting was held, which is an assemblage of Michigan DNR staff working on Lake Superior watershed topics. Discussions included management themes of steelhead stocking, splake fin-clipping evaluation, creel clerk assignments (ports), Buffalo Reef updates, Michigamme Highlands, muskellunge 38-inch MSL ideas, Arctic Grayling stocking in the western UP, Grant proposals, acoustic studies, Cherry Creek hatchery

upgrades, Law enforcement updates. Many of these topics will be discussed at the upcoming Conversations and Coffee evening meetings at the following website: [Conversations and Coffee \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/conversationsandcoffee).

- Fisheries Division had a Trout Committee and Esocid Committee meeting in Gaylord. Hatchery staff discussed possible enhancements to rainbow trout rearing thereby producing a larger size fish for stocking.
  - We had an annual inter-agency meeting with numerous Upper Peninsula resource agency partners (Conservation Districts, Corps of Engineers, US Forest Service, EGLE). Emerging topics included discussions about Upper Peninsula copper mining projects and increasing activity of Great Lakes cruise ships and their foreign passengers visiting some of our communities. The Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Great Lakes are a significant marketing campaign for worldwide visitors. An American Queen Voyages ship will be making a port call to Escanaba this coming summer.
- **Field Season:** The 2023 field season has arrived. Fisheries technicians from the Crystal Falls office have been conducting northern pike surveys, using an “under the ice” netting technique. Walleye egg take collections at Little Bay de Noc will commence soon. Hatchery truck driving assignments for spring fish stocking will require a bit of staff time. Initial spring netting surveys to conduct walleye population estimates will be conducted at the Lac Vieux Desert flowage, Perch Lake, Beaufort Lake, Lake Emily, and Big Manistique Lake. Steelhead egg collection will occur at the Little Manistee Weir. Lake Sturgeon fry will be collected for the sturgeon rearing trailers at Lake Gogebic and Cedar River.
  - **Factoid:** While writing a Status of the Fishery Report for Lake Independence (Big Bay Michigan), the following note was in the file: *In 1912, Brunswick lumber was the sawmill on the north side of the lake. At that time, 90% of the world’s bowling pins were produced at the Brunswick Lumber Company Sawmill in Big Bay, Michigan. The pins manufactured at the mill came from hard maple trees from northern Marquette County. The tight grain of slow growing Upper Peninsula hardwoods made for excellent bowling pins and Brunswick at Big Bay, Michigan was the leader in this industry.*
  - **Fish Production Section Update (Dan Sampson, Regional Hatchery Manager):**
    - Marquette State Fish Hatchery: A group effort by Fisheries staff was successful in getting a proposal for a potentially problematic zoning change denied by Sands Township in Marquette County. This zoning change would have rezoned a large property upstream of Marquette State Fish Hatchery from residential to commercial. While the proposed land use was relatively innocuous, the zoning change would have allowed for the possibility of problematic future land uses and would have opened Pandora’s Box to additional similar zoning requests. Key contributing team members, including Brian Bury, Tony Beck and Dan Sampson, all attended the township meeting to provide comment.
  - **DNR News Emails:** Receive the latest DNR news in your inbox by signing up DNR news topics at <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/about/newsroom/releases>.

## **Parks & Recreation Division: Doug Rich, WUP District Supervisor**

### **Camping**



### **Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew**

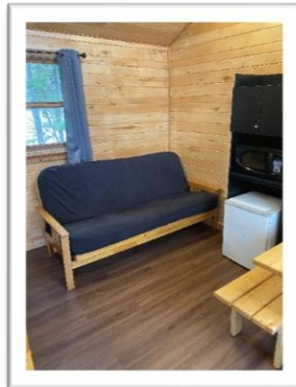
The crew completed and office remodel project at Bewabic State Park. The project included dry wall repairs, construction of shelving and installation of counter tops.

<b>Lake Gogebic SP</b>	Hiring of STW's has begun and campground host vacancies have been filled. Purchasing for a new tractor has been underway as well as plans for the replacement of a sewage pump and controls set for early spring.
<b>Baraga SP</b>	Preparations for the upcoming season are occurring. Project materials are on hand and some projects, like the south shower remodel are underway thanks to assistance from the Lake Gogebic crew. Staff from Baraga FO have assisted with snow plowing and a fascia repair to the park HQ.
<b>Craig Lake SP</b>	Staff has been working on new maps for the upcoming season to be ready for the back country campsites at Craig Lake State Park to be reservable through the Camis reservation system this year. Staff has been working with the park interpreter, Katie Urban, from the Porkies to improve the maps before they are sent to print.

### Overnight Lodging



<b>McLain SP</b>	The park's cabins are closed for winter rentals due to continued construction in the cabin area. Cabins are projected to open mid-June.
<b>Porcupine Mountains Wilderness SP</b>	Staff have been begun remodeling the interior of the Greenstone Cabin.
<b>Twin Lakes SP</b>	We should have local advertising of our lodge to bring in different customers.
<b>Van Riper SP</b>	Not a significant change but the Peshekee River Rustic Cabin was up 5 nights.
<b>Little Presque Isle SFRA</b>	Overnight lodging is down 28 nights from this same period last year.
<b>Fort Wilkins Historic SP</b>	Finalized cabin interior update, see photos.



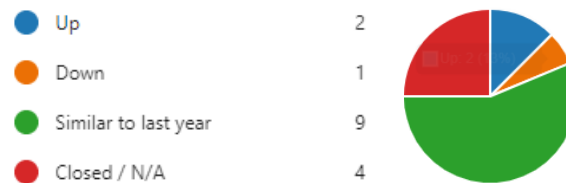
### Boating Access Sites and Harbors





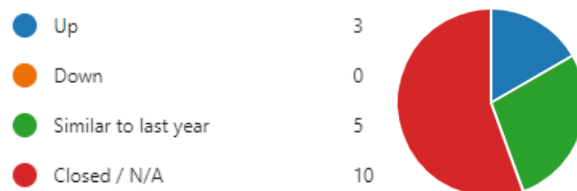
<b>Baraga FO</b>	The staff worked on skid pier refurbishing, routine equipment maintenance, repairs to the stumper, plowing of Baraga SP and Baraga FO facilities.
<b>Baraga SP</b>	Keweenaw Bay has finally frozen near the park, so ice fishermen are out in their shanties in front of the park.
<b>Escanaba FO</b>	Boating access usage by ice fisherman on Little Bay de Noc has been high, due to ideal conditions for access
<b>District Wide</b>	The boating access site snowplowing pilot for ice fishing is ongoing across the U.P. as the DNR is partnering with various organizations to plow, due to funding limitations in the Waterways program.

## Trails



<b>Lake Gogebic SP</b>	Rangers have assumed snowmobile trail responsibilities for two clubs that were previously held by FRD for 245 miles of trail system in Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties.
<b>Escanaba FO</b>	Cross country ski trail use at Days River and Anderson Lake pathways has been like past seasons. Although Days River pathway has had little snow, Anderson Lake has received adequate snowfall to maintain great skiing conditions
<b>Baraga SP</b>	Snowmobile trail use has been steady and seems to be up from last year. There has been more use of the parking area for trail access. Some individuals and small groups have been using the park for snowshoeing.
<b>Van Riper SP</b>	Trail use was down due to having to cancel one of the two lantern lit snowshoe events. It was bitterly cold, causing unsafe conditions to prepare and participate in the event.
<b>Bewabic SP</b>	Local snowmobile and cross-country ski trails have been busy.
<b>Little Presque Isle SFRA</b>	We are working with the consultant for prioritizing and designing trail work. Plans are moving toward 90% completion and the project should go out to bid in the coming months.
<b>Porcupine Mountains Wilderness SP</b>	Trails are in great shape. They have been widened to accommodate the new 16' trail groomer.
<b>Fort Wilkins Historic SP</b>	Ski trails were on par with last year

## Day Use



<b>McLain SP</b>	Day use is up due to the unseasonably warm temperatures and lack of snow allowing walkers to utilize the park.
<b>Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew</b>	The crew has worked on many projects at the Porcupine Mountains ski chalet. Projects include furnace repairs, modifications to the A- frame radiator system, repairs to the kitchen oven, repairs to the grill exhaust system, and storage cabinet construction and installation.



<b>Lake Gogebic SP</b>	At Lake Gogebic a park bench was donated by a family to memorialize their relatives. Working with the family, the park supervisor purchased a bench and plaque, and rangers has assembled the bench and mounted the plaque for installation in the spring.
<b>Menominee River SRA</b>	Some winter use for snowshoeing and winter viewing of waterfalls / rapids.
<b>Bond Falls SS</b>	Like other years, there are calls regarding winter access, upcoming opening dates, use permits for weddings, etc.
<b>Baraga SP</b>	Most day use is closed but the parking area use is up by those using it for snowmobile trail access and snowshoers, also has been some people walking in the park as snow levels have been low.
<b>Twin Lakes SP</b>	With Lake Superior open and without ice more fishermen have been in area.
<b>Bewabic SP</b>	Some ice fishing on Fortune Lake, like prior seasons.
<b>Porcupine Mountains Wilderness SP</b>	There appears to be increased snowmobile visitation to the Lake of the Clouds.

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

<b>Bewabic SP</b>	There are currently two vacant seasonal ranger positions at Bewabic SP. The park supervisor is currently on paternity leave. Staff from Lake Gogebic and Baraga State Parks and Baraga Field Office are assisting the ranger at Bewabic as needed until staff return and positions are filled.
<b>Baraga SP</b>	Park supervisor is working on filling the newly established Lead Worker 9 position. Staff are also working on the hiring / rehiring of STW staff for the season. Volunteer campground host positions were filled.
<b>Porcupine Mountains Wilderness SP</b>	Midwest tele-fest had the best attendance in the past 20 years, with record breaking numbers. With full sun and 48° temperatures, Telefest had the feel of spring skiing in Sun Valley! There were an estimated 800-plus people in attendance, including 634 paid lift tickets on Saturday, and the three parking lots were packed with vehicles overflowing onto County Road 107. This is believed to be the most tickets sold since 2002.  The guided snowshoe hikes, lantern lit trails and Snowburst winter carnival also had great attendance. Snowburst had a lot of children.
<b>Van Riper SP</b>	The one lantern lit snowshoe event at Van Riper State Park was well attended and enjoyed by all. Staff did a great job to get everything ready and facilitate the event again this season. In addition, we have had challenges with costly grooming equipment breakdowns at Blueberry Ridge Pathway.

### **Design, Construction, Capital Outlay and ARPA Projects**

<b>McLain SP</b>	McLain State Park capital outlay projects in the campground and cabin area are on schedule to finish on time. We are hoping to open the campground before Memorial Day weekend and cabins by mid-June.
<b>Lake Gogebic SP</b>	At Lake Gogebic contractor proposals have been submitted for utility, sewer, and drainage upgrades. They are being reviewed for selection and recommendation.
<b>Eagle Harbor State Harbor</b>	Eagle Harbor Marina expansion project is ongoing. Current work focusing on new cribs, new seawall installation and updating courtesy building. See photos below.
<b>Twin Lakes SP</b>	Staff is reviewing design plans for the construction happening this August, which includes a new toilet building, roads repaving, new sewer system and foundation repairs to the enclosed historic shelter.
<b>Bewabic SP</b>	Work continues with ARPA project design for the sewage disposal system, toilet buildings and paving.

<b>Craig Lake SP</b>	Staff has been working diligently to gather information, funding and enter permitting information for a road project. In partnership with the Michigan Army National Guard, the unit has received Capital Outlay dollars to make much needed improvements to the road into Craig Lake. The National Guard will be able to assist and use this opportunity as an Innovative Readiness Training in August 2023.
<b>Porcupine Mountains Wilderness SP</b>	Porkies - Numerous projects in process. The Porkies Shooting complex has had the most progress. Target completion in July, 2023
<b>Fort Wilkins Historic SP</b>	Fort Wilkins Waterline replacement and sanitation station upgrade on hold till spring



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

- **CO Zach Painter** was on patrol in Gogebic County when he was dispatched to a report of a snowmobile that had gone through the ice on Lake Gogebic with two people in the water. Before responding officers arrived on scene, both subjects had gotten out of the water and onto shore. Both subjects were treated and released by EMS. It was determined that the subjects had gotten turned around and drove up the river towards the dam on the north end of the lake where there was open water. CO Painter assisted a tow company the following day to locate the snowmobile. The snowmobile was located and removed from the lake.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** was working a stationary patrol for snowmobiles in Caspian when a vehicle with no plate was observed. A traffic stop was initiated as the vehicle pulled into a residence. The driver had an open alcoholic beverage in the vehicle as well. The CO ran the subject through SFSTs and administered a PBT sample. The driver was well under the legal limit but was found to have a felony fraud warrant out of Iron County. The subject had his daughter with him and contacted his girlfriend to come watch her as he would be going to jail. The girlfriend was also found to have a truancy warrant out of Iron County. The male subject was arrested and lodged at the Iron County Jail. The female subject was issued an appearance date and remained at the residence to watch the daughter.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** checked a lake in Iron County and observed a single angler ice fishing. Upon contacting the subject, he had two tip-ups and a rod outside his shanty. The subject said he had not caught any fish yet. The CO asked him if he had any other lines set and asked to check the shanty. The subject showed the CO a rod he had set up in the shack, making that four lines set. The subject initially claimed he was switching rods and didn't pull his fourth line out of the water all the way. CO VanWagner then told the subject he had been watching him fish for a few minutes prior to the check. He then admitted he was fishing with the four lines and a citation was issued for the violation.
- **CO Phil Helminen** was checking anglers ice fishing when he contacted a man using his ATV to check tip-ups. CO Helminen did not observe an ORV registration on the ATV and when asked about it, the man stated he has never purchased a registration for his ATV. A citation was issued for no ORV registration.
- **COs Jeremy Sergey and Jackson Kelly** conducted a snowmobile patrol during the free snowmobile weekend. The COs contacted over 150 snowmobilers enjoying the above average temperatures during the weekend. Six citations were issued for careless operation when the operators ignored stop signs and crossed busy intersections without looking for traffic. CO Sergey also assisted a broken-down snowmobiler on Trail 8.
- **CO Jeremy Sergey** received a complaint that an individual was cutting live trees down on state land in Marquette County. CO Sergey had a vehicle description and patrolled toward the complaint area. While enroute, CO Sergey observed a vehicle matching the description and contacted CO Jackson Kelly to assist. After following the vehicle for a short distance, the vehicle pulled over and the occupant made contact with the COs. After a short interview, the subject admitted to cutting down several cedar trees for firewood. The subject brought the COs back to the site where he dumped the wood in an attempt to hide it.

They also brought the COs to the site where the trees had been cut down. A citation was issued for cutting live trees on state land.

- **COs Jackson Kelly and Jeremy Sergey** received multiple complaints of deer stranded on Deer Lake and Witch Lake due to the ice conditions. The lake surface was so slippery, the deer could not walk off the lake on their own. The COs, along with **wildlife biologist Brian Roell**, responded to the lakes and found the deer which were exhausted from trying to escape. The deer were restrained and removed from the ice to a safe location. Both deer walked off unharmed.
- **CO Jackson Kelly** received a complaint that someone had cut multiple standing trees on state land and also on private property. The CO met with the complainant who stated that he may have seen the trees that had been cut at a nearby house. The CO interviewed the suspect at his residence. During the interview, the suspect admitted to cutting multiple trees on state land. CO Kelly issued a citation for cutting and removing trees on state land.
- **CO Jenni Hanson** patrolled Lake Gogebic during the Gogebic Lodge's fishing tournament. Despite the beautiful weather, the fishing was slow. CO Hanson contacted one angler who had a small walleye in his possession. CO Hanson asked the angler to show her what device he used to measure the fish. He showed her a handmade wooden bump board with hand drawn hash marks indicating 15 inches. Upon closer inspection with a factory-made metal bump board, the fish measured at 14.5 inches. The angler wanted a third opinion and used a tape measure, which confirmed the fish to be 14.5 inches. CO Hanson seized the undersize fish and later donated it to a needy family. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Jenni Hanson** patrolled Crooked Lake with US Forest Service (USFS) Officers Josh Lopac and Arun Pillai. The officers followed tracks onto the southern part of the lake, where the Sylvania Wilderness area begins. The officers contacted two anglers who were fishing and spearing for northern pike. The anglers had used an electric auger to drill holes, which is illegal in the wilderness area. The USFS officers issued a citation for using electric equipment in the wilderness area.
- **COs Brian Lasanen and Zach Painter, Sgt Marc Pomroy and Lt. Ryan Aho** conducted a group snowmobile patrol prior to the Copper Dog 150 sled dog race in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties. The focus of the patrol was on educating the public of the upcoming sled dog race which utilizes the snowmobile trail system. Contacts were made with numerous snowmobile operators who were out enjoying the spring-like weather. Violations addressed during the patrol included failure to purchase a trail permit, unregistered snowmobile, careless operation, and violation of the snowmobile noise level.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** was on snowmobile patrol and observed a snowmobile without a trail permit. The CO flipped around and observed the snowmobile go through an intersection failing to yield at the posted stop sign. The snowmobile was stopped, and the operator was issued a citation for failing to obtain a trail permit. A verbal warning was given for careless operation.
- **COs Alex VanWagner, Jared Ferguson, and Sgt. Brian Bacon** conducted a small group patrol in Iron County for fishing and snowmobiling activity. Several contacts with anglers and snowmobilers were made, and verbal warnings were issued for a variety of violations. One citation was issued for an unregistered snowmobile.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** conducted an ice fishing patrol in Iron County. Several anglers were contacted throughout the day and multiple minor verbal warnings were issued for fisheries, snowmobile, and ORV violations. A group of anglers was contacted after observing an ORV being operated with no ORV sticker. The subject with the ORV said he just caught a northern pike. The CO checked the fish, and it was a couple inches short of the legal size-limit. A citation was issued for the short pike.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** stopped two snowmobiles on the trail as one displayed an expired registration, and the other did not have a current trail sticker. One of the operators also had a suspended driver's license. Another snowmobile approached without a trail sticker while citations were being issued, and the VIN on the snowmobile was defaced due to a wrap covering it. Between the three snowmobiles, two citations were issued for failing to obtain a trail sticker and one for failing to attach registration decal. Verbal warnings were given for the other violations.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** was heading to his residence after an ice fishing patrol and saw a large, friendly pig roaming down the middle of the highway causing a traffic hazard. The pig was lured off the highway and with the help of Iron County dispatch and bystanders, the owners were able to be located. The pig was escorted safely back to its home.
- **CO Anna Viau** instructed at the three-day Becoming an Outdoors Women (BOW) retreat in Big Bay. CO Viau instructed on self-confidence.
- **CO Anna Viau** responded to the scene of a fatal snowmobile crash south of Crystal Falls. A man from Wisconsin collided head-on with a trailer groomer that was actively grooming the trail. Life-saving measures were attempted at the scene of the crash, but unfortunately the man was pronounced dead at the scene. He had been riding with three others, who were also from Wisconsin.
- Right after a fatal snowmobile crash, **CO Anna Viau**, along with most of the first responders in Iron County, responded to the scene of a fatal head-on motor vehicle crash on Highway US 2 just outside of Iron River. The driver of one of the vehicles was pronounced dead at the scene, while the passenger of that vehicle, and the two occupants of the other vehicle were transported to the hospital for treatment of serious injuries. The highway was closed, and traffic was rerouted for a few hours while the scene was processed.
- **CO John Kamps** and Marquette County Sheriff's officers responded to the scene of a snowmobile crash that caused serious injury to the rider. The snowmobile operator failed to stop at a road crossing and went airborne after hitting a frozen

snowbank. The rider had not remained on the groomed trail but had started travelling on the adjacent pipeline with the rest of their group. CO Kamps and Sherriff's deputies were offered snowmobiles from other riders using Trail 8 to transport medical supplies and EMS to the scene of the crash. The individual was carried out and transported to the hospital to be treated for multiple injuries.

- COs John Kamps and Jackson Kelly received several snowmobile complaints along Trail 14 and County Road 510. The COs worked the area throughout the weekend. Four citations and multiple warnings were issued regarding failing to register snowmobile, no trail permit, no headlight, and operate a snowmobile with a suspended license.
- **Sgt. Mark Leadman** responded to a complaint of snowmobiles not stopping or yielding at a private driveway crossing on Trail 417. After contact with the homeowner, Sgt Leadman was pulling out of the driveway when a snowmobile blew right through the intersection narrowly missing the patrol truck. The operator was contacted and immediately knew their mistake. They received a careless snowmobile operation ticket and agreed they needed to pay closer attention to all signs posted on the trails.
- **COs Jeremy Sergey, John Kamps and Sgt. Mark Leadman** worked a group patrol on Trail 417 and Trail 8. Both speed and careless operation were the focus at several road crossings and along the area posted with a speed limit of 35 mph. Activity was light with only one subject cited for careless operation after not stopping at a road crossing.
- **COs Jeremy Sergey and Jackson Kelly** conducted a snowmobile patrol on Trail 8. The COs had received a complaint that snowmobiles had been running the stop sign and almost hitting passing vehicles and pedestrians on multiple occasions. During the snowmobile patrol, the COs witnessed snowmobiles run the stop sign and multiple tickets were issued. A follow up patrol was conducted several days later in the same area with COs Kelly, John Kamps and Sgt Mark Leadman. Four more citations were issued for subjects failing to stop at the road crossing or even attempting to look for traffic before crossing the road.
- **CO Jackson Kelly** responded to a cardiac arrest call to assist EMS and local police. When CO Kelly arrived, he began CPR to relieve EMS and another officer who had been trying to resuscitate the individual. CPR and other life-saving efforts were conducted until EMS determined that nothing more could be done. The subject was pronounced dead at the scene.
- **CO Jackson Kelly** received a complaint that an individual in the Big Bay area was burning garbage. The complainant stated that the fire was putting off a lot of yellow toxic smelling smoke. By the time CO Kelly arrived at the suspect's house, the fire was out but the CO could see the burned remains of a mattress. The suspect told the CO that in addition to the mattress, he had burned vinyl flooring, carpet, and other non-natural materials. The suspect was issued a citation for burning household waste.

### **Forest Resources Division: Tom Seablom, Western UP District Supervisor**

- Field work for the 2025 YOE inventory season started in October. The next western UP Forestry Open House will be for the Baraga unit on May 16, 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](https://Michigan.Gov/Forestry).
- As of March 9, 307 timber sale contracts are open western UP-wide. This represents 920,064 cords of timber on 51,290 acres, valued at approximately \$35.1 million. Included in this are 25 GNA sales representing 98,083 cords of timber on 5,468 acres, valued at approximately \$3.5 million. As of March 10, 9 sales are available western UP-wide for the minimum advertised price. This represents 11,693 cords of timber. Find more information on state forest timber sales at: [Michigan.Gov/Timber](https://Michigan.Gov/Timber)
- Western UP Units are reporting 48 active timber sales totaling about 6,600 acres. Units report moderate to slowing demand for timber sale offerings. The Escanaba unit is seeing more interest in cedar.
- Western UP cultivation work will be starting in April or May depending on the weather. Approximately 900 acres will be planted this spring. 500 acres are scheduled to be prepared for planting in the future, usually by trenching. An additional 500 acres will be treated to encourage natural regeneration.
- Although wildfire activity is low with the winter snows, the fire protection staff is busy with training and preparing for the upcoming spring fire season. The western UP will likely be moving into the spring fire season at the end of March. Seasonal precipitation outlook for the months March, April and May is for above normal precipitation with near normal temperatures.
- Open enrollment for the Commercial Forest Program I continues until April 1. For more information on the Commercial Forest Program, go to [Michigan.Gov/Commercialforest](https://Michigan.Gov/Commercialforest).

- Welcome our newest employee to the Western UP, Matt Glenn. Matt was hired as a Fire Officer at the Gwinn Field Office. Matt comes to the DNR from the Montana DNRC.

### **Public Information Office: John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer, Marquette**

- Our Showcasing the DNR feature story series continues each Thursday. To see the story archive visit [www.Michigan.gov/DNRStories](http://www.Michigan.gov/DNRStories). We just reached 34,000 weekly subscribers through DNR email.
- Please send story ideas or offers to contribute your writing to the increasingly popular statewide series to me at [pepinj@michigan.gov](mailto:pepinj@michigan.gov). We are happy to work with new writers. Also, just because you submit a story idea, that doesn't mean you need to write the story.
- We are currently looking for stories to be published from May through August. There must be a ton of things happening that would be cool to highlight, including ARPA construction projects. Please keep me informed of project starts. I want to capture many of these with photos and video. Thank you so much.
- "Ask the DNR" will be broadcasted on April 6 to close out the 2022-2023 season. Dates for the new 2023-2024 season will be available in late summer.

### **Wildlife Division: Dave Lemmien, UP Wildlife Supervisor**

- **Furbearer Seasons:** Otter season remains open in the UP through the end of the month— March 31. Harvested otter must be registered no later than April 10, 2023.
- **Moose Survey:** Wildlife Division recently completed an aerial winter moose survey to estimate population size. Despite unfavorable weather grounding DNR aircraft for several days at a time, we were able to complete the survey on Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup>. WLD research staff are now analyzing the data and once results become available, they will be shared with the CACs.
- **Hiring:** Wildlife Division recently filled its wildlife technician vacancy at the Soo with Rachel Leggett. Rachel started in late February. WLD recently completed interview process for the vacant Crystal Falls wildlife biologist vacancy. A job offer has been tendered and waiting acceptance. Upon acceptance, a new biologist should be starting early April which would result in the WLD's UP Region fully staffed.
- **Report to NRC's Wildlife Committee and Committee of the Whole:**
  - Chad Stewart of the Wildlife Division talked to the committee about urban deer management. Urban deer typically have high survival rates and limited geographic range, along with high reproduction rates. As an example, in 1928 six deer were introduced into the University of Michigan's George Reserve in Livingston County. By 1934, the population had grown to 180 deer. The next year, the population stood at 222. Growing urban deer populations can cause conflicts with humans – car-deer accidents and destruction of ornamental plants, for instance -- and can affect human health through transmission of Lyme disease. The department has established procedures for helping communities manage urban deer populations. The department's first goal is to help communities define their concerns – focusing not on the number of deer but on the impacts those deer are having – and presenting a number of options. Those options, each carrying pros and cons, include everything from nonlethal methods to hunting and sharpshooting. Chad also discussed the problem of individual deer in distress. This year several deer got their heads caught in plastic pumpkins. These situations usually resolve themselves, but Chad pointed out that only the department has legal authority to tranquilize deer. Chad used Meridian Township in Ingham County as an example of a community that has done successful urban deer management, garnering broad public acceptance. Chad also pointed to a program in Oakland County to coordinate community efforts to manage deer at a regional level.
  - Dustin Isenhoff of Wildlife presented highlights from the 2022 Wildlife Division Annual Report.

- Barb Avers of the Wildlife Division told the commission about proposed regulations for the 2023-2024 migratory bird hunting seasons. The department is recommending minor changes to teal season dates to eliminate overlapping seasons.

■ **DNR Wildlife Habitat Grant application process:** *Please note the application window has closed; however good information is provided (web links) to keep in mind for next year's application window.*

Now through March 16, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Habitat Grant Program will be accepting applications.

"We are excited to support those who want to increase habitat and enhance existing habitat through the Wildlife Habitat Grant Program," said DNR Wildlife Division Chief Jared Duquette. "Healthy and abundant habitats not only benefit wildlife, but also benefit Michigan residents."

Funding is available for local, state, federal and tribal governments, profit and nonprofit groups, and individuals through an open, competitive process. The minimum grant amount is \$15,000, and the maximum is the total amount of funds available for the grant cycle, which is approximately \$1 million for 2023.

The Wildlife Habitat Grant Program, which began in October 2013, is funded from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. The program's main objective is to enhance and improve the quality and quantity of wildlife species habitat in support of the DNR Wildlife Division's strategic plan.

The grant program application period began Monday, and applications must be submitted through the MiGrants system no later than March 16 to be considered for funding. Successful grant applications will be announced in May. The detailed program handbook and more information are available at Michigan.gov/DNRGrants.

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

### **Trail Specialist: Jeff Kakuk, Western Upper Peninsula**

#### **Snowmobile Trails:**

- UP15 Snowmobile Trail has been closed the past two seasons due to the failure of a bridge in the Sturgeon River Sloughs Wildlife Area. The project is managed by DNR Wildlife Division. The project has been bid out for construction with the intent of completion for the 23/24 season.
- UP15 has been closed between Trail UP2 and Trail UP111 in Iron County as a bridge inspection has deemed the bridge unsafe. This is a difficult area for trail rerouting and options are still being reviewed by USFS, DNR and trail sponsor. Several options are under consideration for having the trail segment reopen for the 2023/2024 season.
- There have been several extended trail closures within the Western UP to accommodate forest harvest activities on private lands. Trails impacted are: UP122, UP124, UP1, UP100 and UP13.

#### **Multi-Use Trails:**

- The Bill Nicholls Rail Trail (UP3) temporary repairs have kept the trail open between Painsdale and South Range. The department is continuing with a larger scope engineering project to review nearly 2 miles of trail that has the potential to further impact both trail connectivity and the Adams Township Water Supply. A FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant was submitted to aid in the costly infrastructure construction costs.
- The Stager to Crystal Rail Trail (UP113) just south of Crystal Falls was closed in May 2022 due to a large washout. The trail repair has been designed, bid and awarded to FA Industrial from Iron River, MI. Project will be completed this summer. The City of Crystal Falls has developed an alternate route for the trail connection.

#### **Trail Management:**

- The West UP and Cadillac Area Trail Specialists are continuing to pilot an infrastructure data collection project that would provide the department with both a documented inventory and a prioritized ranking of infrastructure. Collection of data is accomplished by trained Park Rangers and that data is maintained by both DNR Forest Resource and Fisheries Divisions in the Great Lakes Stream Crossing Inventory. <https://great-lakes-stream-crossing-inventory-michigan.hub.arcgis.com/>



Note: This collection system is also being utilized by many other agencies, municipalities and the USFS.

### Trail Specialist: Rob Katona, Central Upper Peninsula

Project Names	Description	Trail Use	Anticipated Completion	Q2 Updates
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	Some initial work has started.
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	TBD	Project will be funded. Waiting on coding to revise work order to resume project and advertise for construction.
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	Project was awarded to Delene Construction for bridges #2 and #3. Funding for bridge #6 was not received.
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	Revised scoping doc for MDOT & AECOM review.
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	Non-Motorized & Mountain Bike	November 2023	Engineering/design is nearly 100%. Additional funding is



	throughout 42 sites at LPI recreation area and Wetmore Pond			needed to advertise for construction.
Days River Single Track Trail Construction	Approximately 10 miles of single-track trail construction designed for mountain bike use	Non-Motorized & Mountain Bike	2024	Design continues. There are some new trail alignments that will require additional review through the RTPD.
Tyoga Pathway Bridges	Replace one bridge and replace or rehab second bridge both spanning the Laughing Whitefish River	Non-Motorized	TBD	Revised scoping doc for MDOT & AECOM review.
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	Revised scoping doc for MDOT & AECOM review.
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.
Laughing Whitefish Falls Bridge	New pedestrian bridge construction on NCT over Laughing Whitefish River at the Laughing Whitefish Falls Natural Area	Non-Motorized	TBD	Revised scoping doc for MDOT & AECOM review.
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	Submitted EGLE application for final work.
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	Contract ready for additional work after spring breakup.
Bass Lake Restoration	Perform reroutes around eroded areas.	ORV	September 2023	Working on work scope; requested funding to enter in PR database for approval. Project will be advertised this spring.
Gwinn-Arnold Improvements and Restoration III	ORV G route Marquette County filling, gravel, and culvert work	ORV	September 2023	Working on work scope; 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 UP 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	Waiting on response from USFS.
<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 De Noc	Non-Motorized Pathway	2023	More work during summer of 2023.
<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	Working with CN Railroad, MDOT and MCRC on final permits/permissions.
<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.