



Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: May 2021 (Information current as of 5/12/2021)

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

Upper Peninsula Field Deputy Update – Stacy Haughey

2021 License Year Sales Summary through March 2021

We are *very* early in the sales cycles so it will be interesting to watch the trends as the progress. Online sales are up 65% over this time last year. We are again seeing the numbers for hunting and fishing pace ahead in prior year to date comparisons.

- Total unique fishing customers are up 61%
- Those that are 65 years old or older are now leading the pack up 87% while those age 17-24 are up 41%
- New fishing customers are up 71%
- Female fishing customers are up 79%
- Total unique hunting customers are up 85%
- New hunting customers are up 55%
- Female hunting customers up 113%
- Spring turkey hunters are up 166%. It is important to note that spring turkey licenses went on sale earlier this year.
- Nonresident fish customers are up 76% while nonresident hunt customers are up 200%
- Recreation passport revenue is up 13.9% through the month of February
- ORV licenses are up 107% and snowmobile permits are up 120% through March

Keweenaw Land Proposal

Over the course of the last several years, The Rohatyn Group (TRG) has approached the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to determine interest in acquiring significant land holdings in Keweenaw County. During those interactions, the DNR had indicated that they were not prepared to make such a purchase in its entirety.

Recently, community stakeholders have also reached out to support nominating this acreage to be considered for purchase by the DNR. Although several staff from different divisions within the DNR, primarily Forest Resources Division and Parks & Recreation Division, have had conversations related to this possibility, and see the value in it, the property as currently presented, is not ready for a 2021 MNRTF nomination to purchase. It has become clear while reviewing the proposal that obtaining additional information and engaging additional partners would be extremely helpful before any potential application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board would be successful.

This decision is to ensure success of the overall project proposal. The Michigan DNR has invested over \$23 million dollars in Keweenaw County and our team respects the value of these important lands. Moving forward, we would like to include a more robust and diverse group whose purpose would be gathering additional information, creating a prioritization of the acreage, and packaging a recommendation for the best path forward that will ensure the highest likelihood of success utilizing multiple partners.

Two information partner meetings were held May 11 and May 12 that included invitations to multiple stakeholders from the following areas of interest: state and federal legislators, county boards and officials,

economic development councils, national and historic parks, county planners, national forest, trail groups, tribal, visitors' bureau, NRC Commissioners, and DNR staff. More will be shared as discussions occur.

May NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met in a virtual format on May 13, 2021. Director Dan Eichinger approved:

- [Changes to falconry regulations](#). The changes relate to what happens in the event of termination of the sponsorship of a new or apprentice falconer.
- [Changes to regulations on target shooting at the Muskegon State Game Area and the Rogue River State Game Area](#) because of increased safety concerns and conflict among users. The changes will close all of the Rogue River State Game Area and the west unit of the Muskegon State Game Area to recreational target shooting. This will not prohibit archery activities or organized target shooting events authorized by the department.
- Five land transactions. Details on each can be found in [the NRC agenda](#). Among these transactions is [the Crystal Waters Tract in Monroe County](#), which will create a new state game area in southeast Michigan.

Committee of the Whole, Director's Report

Casey Reitz and Krista Hubbard of the Wildlife Division reviewed proposed changes to the Shooting Preserve Order, which is under the authority of the director. The department regulates 229 shooting preserves in the state – 73 are open to the public and 156 are private. The proposed changes would:

- Opening the hunting season year-round for released pheasants, bobwhite quail and Hungarian partridge. The proposal would not extend to released mallard ducks. Most preserves now operate Aug. 15 through April 30. This change would allow for additional recreational opportunities, would have no biological impact and would align with regulations in other midwestern states. The change is supported by the Michigan Bird and Game Breeders Association.
- Removing the limit on the number of acres of shooting preserve in individual counties. Currently, the total acres of shooting preserve cannot exceed more than 1 percent of total land mass of that county. Some counties have approached that limit. This change would also provide for expanded recreational opportunities, would align with other midwestern states, would have no biological impact and is supported by the Michigan Bird and Game Breeders Association.

Chad Stewart of the Wildlife Division reviewed several proposed changes to deer regulations. These include:

- Allowing for the use of all legal firearms for muzzleloader season in Muskegon County. This is a technical correction to existing regulations.
- Removing the exemption that allows muzzleloaders to be used in Zone 3 – the southern Lower Peninsula -- on public lands during the late antlerless season for any deer, a regulation that caused some confusion during the most recent deer season.
- Banning natural deer urine and other body fluids used as attractants because of concerns that these products spread chronic wasting disease. This change would follow best management practice recommendations from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Since 2018 in Michigan only natural urine approved by the Archery Trade Association has been allowed for use. This proposed change in regulation would still allow for the use of synthetic urine as an attractant.

A report on legislation affecting the department is below.

How to Participate in the NRC Meetings

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

May 2021 Legislative Updates – Craig Brunet, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

HB 4041 – Provide 2 Week Preference of State Camp Sites for State Residents – Rep. Steven Johnson: This legislation amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require that all state camp sites be first offered for reservation to residents of the state for at least 2 weeks. The legislation includes reservations for all campground sites, cabins, yurts and lodges.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

HB 4080 – Allow Pneumatic Guns During Certain Seasons – Rep. LaFave: This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide the NRC the ability to allow an individual to use a pneumatic gun during any firearm season. The bill would also give the Department the ability to determine whether a pneumatic gun could be allowed during archery season for individual with a disability or physical limitation.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

HB 4088 (H-1) – Allow Supplemental feeding of Wildlife and Birds – Rep. Borton: This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow for the feeding of wildlife and birds if both of the following conditions are met: the feed is located within 300 feet from a residence and the quantity of feed placed, scattered, or distributed within 300 feet of that residence does not exceed two gallons.

- The bill referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

HB 4138 – Decriminalize Improper Display of a Snowmobile Registration Decal or Trail Permit – Rep. Alexander: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to decriminalize the improper display of a snowmobile registration decal or trail permit sticker from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00.

- The bill was passed by the House and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4149 (H-1) – Modify Certain Penalties for Certain Fishing Violations – Rep. Damoose: The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to modify the following fishing violations to a civil infraction with a fine of not more than \$150.00: fails to attach the individual's name and address to tip-ups in violation of section 48703(2); or fishes with more than the authorized number of lines in violation of section 48703(1).

- The bill was passed by the House and referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4151 – Modify Penalties for Certain Hunting and Fishing Licensing Violations – Rep. S. Johnson: The bill would decriminalize failure to carry your hunting or fishing license to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00.

- The bill was passed by the House and referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4152 (H-2) – Modify Penalties for Violations of Certain Hunting Provisions – Rep. Howell: The bill would decriminalize the following hunting provisions from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine up to \$150.00: failure to attach individual's name, driver license number, or sportcard number to a ground blind; failure to attach individual's name, driver license number, or sportcard number to a tree stand, scaffold, or raised platform; and supplemental feeding of deer.

- The bill was passed by the House and referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4242 – Allow Export of Live Minnows, Wigglers or Crayfish as Bait – Rep. Alexander: This bill would allow for the export of live minnow, wigglers, or crayfish as bait.

- The bill was reported with recommendation from the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

HB 4332 – Modify Placement of Off-Road Vehicle Stickers – Rep. S. Johnson: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the license for a 2-wheel vehicle to be attached to either of the following: centered on the exposed surface of the rear fender or located at a visible place on a front suspension fork.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

HB 4363 (H-1) – Modify Time Periods for Certain DNR Land Transactions – Rep. Howell: The bill would extend the time-period for the DNR to approve or deny an application for a proposed exchange of state land and for a proposed sale of surplus land, from 180 days to 210 days. The bill would also require the DNR to provide public notice at least 30 days before making a decision to dispose of, lease, or develop certain public land of more than 80 acres in size.

- The bill was passed by the House and referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HB 4469 – Provide Appropriations from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund – Rep. Allor: This bill contains the recommendations made by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant awards for Fiscal Year 2021. The appropriation totals almost \$39.2 million in project funding from the trust fund.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. The bill has been signed into law by the Governor and is Public Act 9 of 2021.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 4470 (H-2) – Revise Penalty for Illegal Taking of Sturgeon - Rep. Allor: The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to increase the maximum fine for the illegally taking of a sturgeon to \$5,000.00. The statute currently allows for a fine of between \$500.00 to a maximum of \$2,000.00.

- This bill was reported with recommendation by the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and referred to the House Committee on Judiciary.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

SCR 6 – Resolution Urging NRC and Department to End Study on APR in CWD Core Area – Sen. McBroom: A concurrent resolution to urge the Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Natural Resources to end the research study begun in 2019 concerning the effectiveness of antler point restrictions as a management tool in the chronic wasting disease core area.

- The resolution was adopted by the Senate and House.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this resolution.

SCR 7 – Resolution Urging NRC and Department to Organize Wolf Hunting and Trapping in 2021 – Sen. McBroom: A concurrent resolution to urge the Natural Resources Commission to authorize, and the Department of Natural Resources to organize, wolf hunting and trapping as part of the state's wolf management efforts beginning in 2021.

- The resolution was adopted by the Senate and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this resolution.

Good Information to Know

DNR Public Meetings – Future Dates

For virtual or conference call meeting information, please go to the DNR website at: www.michigan.gov/DNRMeetings and click on the appropriate meeting and/or agenda for instructions.

May 19	Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup (call 517-331-3790)
May 20	UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting-Escanaba (virtual)
May 21	Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council (call 517-284-5876)
May 26	UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting-Baraga & Bergland (virtual)
June 4	Outdoor Recreation Advisory Council (call 517-284-6056)
June 9	Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee (call 517-284-6135)
June 10	Natural Resources Commission Meeting (virtual) (call 517-599-1067 to attend)
June 15	UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting-Sault Ste. Marie (virtual/location TBD)
June 16	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board (call 517-284-5954)
June 17	Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting (call 226-1331 to attend) (location TBD)
June 17	Michigan State Waterways Commission (call 517-285-0747)
June 18	Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council (call 517-284-5876)
June 23	Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup (call 517-331-6219)

U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities

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

June 12-13	2021 Summer Free Fishing & Free ORV Weekend
June 19	Fayette Historic State Park - Christmas in June
July 2-4	Baraga State Park - 4 th of July Festivities (Campers Only)
July 23-25	Baraga State Park - Christmas in July (Campers Only)
Aug 16-22	UP State Fair / Pocket Park Open (Tentative)

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- Learn about mass timber at webinars May 11, June 3 (5/7/21)
- Whitmer signs \$37.8 million Trust Fund bill for outdoor recreation (5/6/21)
- DNR to begin repair work on Houghton to Chassell rail-trail in Houghton County (5/6/21)
- Two elk or bear tags in one year? (5/4/21)
- Cleaner campfires, firefighter appreciation, respect for public lands & more (5/3/21)
- New opportunities in forest carbon markets for smaller landowners (4/30/21)
- State park volunteer opportunities, state forest input, more (4/30/21)
- Showcasing the DNR: Ready, set, get outdoors (4/29/21)
- Lake Superior anglers asked to report marked splake (4/28/21)
- DNR announces \$100,000 awarded in Upper Peninsula Deer Habitat Improvement grants (4/28/21)
- New pheasant license to fund pheasant release program (4/28/21)
- Changes for 2021 bear season (4/23/21)
- May meetings on trails, fishing, accessibility, timber and more (4/23/21)
- Michigan's outdoors are open for everyone (4/22/21)
- Showcasing the DNR: This Earth Day, celebrate the little things (4/22/21)

Eastern UPCAC Update

The following new EUPCAC & WUPCAC Council members were selected by the UPCAC Selection Team through an application and vetting process. Please give them a warm welcome!

1. **Julie Timmer** of Sault Ste. Marie (Chippewa County), Affiliation: O.U.T. (Outdoor Use of Trails) House Consortium
2. **Kyle Edwards** of McMillan (Luce County), Affiliation: Tahquamenon Waterfowl Association
3. **Jarrold Biebel** of AuTrain (Alger County), Affiliation: Independent
4. **Robert Liebermann** of Newberry (Luce County), Affiliation: Independent
5. **Olivia Castles** of Newberry (Luce County), Affiliation: Independent
6. **Erik Bessonon** of Gladstone (Delta County), Affiliation: UP Whitetails of Delta County
7. **Carol Mason Sherrill** of Watersmeet (Gogebic County), Affiliation: Independent

The **Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council** met on April 22nd virtually with 36 in attendance including Council members, DNR staff, legislative representatives and registered public attendees. The following topics were included on the agenda and discussed:

- DNR Division Reports by staff
- CWD Updates by Dave Jentoft
- Review of DNR Response to EUPCAC December Resolution re: Revisions to Wolf Management Plan: Questions answered by Cody Norton and Dan Kennedy
- Resource Damage Due to Spring ORV Operation by Paul Gaberdiel
- Sandhill Cranes by Dave Jentoft & EUPCAC History by Stacy Haughey
- Celebrating 100 Years of the DNR by Stacy Haughey
- Subcommittee Reports: Fisheries and Policy Impact
- Public Comments: Mr. Floyd Dropps from the WUPCAC presented two resolutions that were passed at the WUPCAC's March meeting regarding comments to the DNR's inland walleye management plan and opposition to an underwater spearfishing proposal. The EUPCAC discussed the resolutions and voted/passed a resolution to support both of the WUPCAC's resolutions.

Division Updates

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

Western Upper Peninsula

Project Name: Menominee River Bridge	Project Name: Stateline Trail Wakefield Extension	Project Name: Little Carp Trestle	Project Name: Swedetown-Calumet trail capping
Description: Bridge Deck Rehabilitation and abutment repairs on this 392' interstate trail bridge	Description: Bridge and Culvert replacements to extend this multi-use trail 5 miles into Wakefield, MI. The stateline trail is nearly 100 miles long along the Wisconsin border.	Description: Phase 3 includes the deck replacement and bank armor of this 230' trestle	Description: Defining trail corridor in town with an ADA trail mix gravel. 1.1 mile project
Trail Use: Multi-use	Trail Use: Multi-use	Trail Use: Multi-use	Trail Use: Multi-use
Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion: 7/2021
Q3 Update: May 17 th Deck removal-June Installation of new deck to begin	Q3 Update: Construction Timeline pending	Q3 Update: Site work to re-start May 10 th	Q3 Update: Trail Bond is being crushed and stockpiled in Calumet

Project Name: Freda Grade – 2018 Flood Repairs	Project Name: Site OHM 18 - Culvert Replacement	Project Name: WUP culvert failure site design	Project Name: Site BD257 – culvert replacement and trail improvements
Description: Repairs to FEMA supported 2018 flood damage. 3 Culverts and 10 surface erosion sites.	Description: Replacement of a failed culvert on the Lake Linden Grade. This site is between Lake Linden and Calumet.	Description: Six culvert sites failing in 2019. 3 – Sidnaw -Bergland grade 1 – Bill Nicholls grade 2 – Ontonagon-Rockland Grade	Description: Raise section of trail and replace failed culvert. Project also includes cleaning of downstream channel.
Trail Use: Multi-use	Trail Use: Multi-use	Trail Use: Multi-use	Trail Use: Multi-use
Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion: unknown	Anticipated Completion: 7/2021
Q3 Update: Culvert project bid package is being put together	Q3 Update: No Updates	Q3 Update: No updates	Q3 Update: Completed in Q2

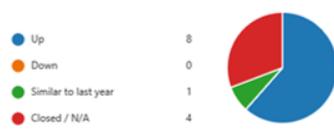
Project Name: Ripley	Project Name: Salmon-Trout Bridge Load Rating	Project Name: WUP Bridge Load Rating Assessment
Description: Adjacent property site contamination. Trail use impacted. Temporary trail reroute in place.	Description: Wood deck has rotted, and original load rating is below current needs. This project will review structure and provide options for repair	Description: Provide an assessment of 5 large bridges (3 on Bill Nicholls, 2 on Sidnaw Bergland) to provide a load rating to post.
Trail Use: Multi-use	Trail Use: Multi-use	Trail Use: Multi-use
Anticipated Completion: Pending EPA cleanup/capping	Anticipated Completion: Summer 2021	Anticipated Completion: Summer 2021
Q3 Update: EPA work still possible late summer	Q3 Update: UPEA review has begun	Q3 Update: OHM review has begun

Parks & Recreation Division: Doug Rich, WUP District Supervisor

Camping



Boating Access Sites



Day Use



Overnight Lodging



Trails



Significant changes, projects or notes about camping.

Unit	Responses
Twin Lakes	This is the first year we have been able to work in the park in April in many years. We had under 160 inches of snow this year.
Bewabic	Cleaning up campground for oak wilt remediation,
Escanaba FO	Water testing began, 2 wells need to be chlorinated. Testing continues after chlorination
Baraga FO	Built pull-thru site in campground at Baraga SP, removed hazardous trees out of Baraga SP
Baraga SP	Early spring weather has facilitated park cleanup and tasks being on schedule for the 4/30/21 camping opener. State Forest Campgrounds are all open and Big Eric's Bridge has been busy for fishing season

Significant changes, projects or notes about overnight lodging.

Unit	Responses
Twin Lakes	No snow in Dec and low snow conditions in March 2021 contributed to lower lodge rentals
McLain	Comparison was done using 2021 vs. 2019 due to closure of facilities in 2020, lodging was up.
Porcupine Mountains	Added new overnight lodging unit: Cotton 8 Bunk Cabin. All except a few days were reserved in less than 2 -weeks.
Lake Gogebic	The Michigan Army National Guard has begun the construction of a tiny house that will be going to Lake Gogebic State Park for rental in 2022. This project is a joint effort with MIARNG of Gladstone, Mi and the DNR, in which construction duties are being shared.

Significant changes, projects or notes about boating.

Unit	Responses
Bewabic	Two refurbished skid piers were put out, skid piers pushed in, BAS inspections and spring cleanup were completed.
Porcupine Mountains	Big Iron and Union Bay BAS very busy with early spring weather. GCC's contract was extended for the winter of 21-22.
Escanaba FO	Because of early unseasonably warm weather, use at BAS was higher than normal- Perch fishing on the bay was good
Baraga FO	Put in docks at BAS sites, finished refurbishing docks,
Baraga SP	Early spring weather brought boaters and fishing guests to sites earlier, use was higher.
Van Riper	Use has been way up due to mild winter and lack of snow.

Significant changes, projects or notes about trails.

Unit	Responses
Twin Lakes	Lack of snow and warm conditions slowed winter trail use.
Baraga FO	Helped in locating leaking water line on Bill Nichols trail in the Lake Mine area, cleared culverts of debris on the Houghton-Chassell trail.
Van Riper/Craig Lake	Trail usage has been way up due to lack of snow and early spring.

Significant changes, projects or notes about day use.

Unit	Responses
Bond Falls	A lot of phone calls regarding opening date due to early spring weather, but intermittent snow and vandalism at the site (vault toilet door kicked out) have delayed opening the site early.
Baraga SP	The park opened the day use slightly earlier than normal due to mild weather and guests began utilizing the site immediately

Unit	Responses
Porcupine Mountains	CR 107 and South boundary open early, and use started immediately. The park is up to 7 search and rescue operations.

Special events, volunteer projects, accomplishments, challenges or personnel news.

Unit	Responses
Bewabic	Michael Behrndt is our new Commissioned Ranger, hired in April
F.J. McLain	Ms. Louise Hunt (Lead Ranger at Petoskey State Park) accepted the unit supervisor position at McLain and Twin Lakes and will start on May 17, 2021.
Porcupine Mountains	Hired new GOA Julie Chascsa, and interviews were held for the manager position.
Baraga SP	A memorial bench donation for an EGLE staff member who camped frequently at the park is nearing completion that will be placed in the park's day use area (donated by EGLE staff in his memory, they also did a tree planting at a state game area all from staff donations). This will be a great spot for people to view Keweenaw Bay.
Bond Falls	A memorial bench donation has also been received for Bond Falls. A Wisconsin family made the memorial donation in honor of their daughter. The 8' bench will be installed on the main viewing platform on Bond Falls boardwalk and will provide a great place for guests to sit and enjoy the falls.
Van Riper	New seasonal ranger, Evan Omernick, has started with the DNR. He comes to us from out of state and is eager to take on his new role at Van Riper.

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

- **CO Ethen Mapes** responded to a residence to assist the Ontonagon County Sheriff's Office with a missing subject. The subject was a 17-year-old autistic male who had wandered off into the woods from his residence. The area in which he wandered off consisted of thick forest as well as swamps, rivers, and marshes. Fourteen conservation officers from District 1 participated throughout the four-day search. Hundreds of volunteer searchers and multiple agencies assisted throughout the weekend in snow, rain, and freezing temperatures. The subject was found deceased during a line search made up of conservation officers and civilian volunteers.
- **CO Zach Painter** responded the report of a feral pig running loose south of Wakefield. CO Painter located the pig which was not feral but a pet of a nearby residence. The pig was reunited with its family.
- **CO Jenni Hanson** responded to a search and rescue in the Porcupine Mountains State Park. An elderly female failed to check out of her hotel room, and her vehicle was located at the state park. Officers involved contacted the family who advised they had not heard from her in two days. CO Hanson, along with a Forest Service law enforcement officer, the Ontonagon County Sheriff's Department, and Porcupine Mountains Park rangers conducted a half-day search for the missing woman. CO Hanson was part of the group that searched the shores of the park by boat. The woman was located on the shoreline in good health and good spirits. She was returned to her vehicle without incident.
- **CO Jeffrey Dell** responded to a forest fire call from central dispatch. Shortly after the call, central dispatch advised a truck had passed multiple fire trucks in route to the fire. Upon arriving at the scene, CO Dell observed a truck matching the description parked in the driveway. Several acres around the residence had been burned and had to be put out. It was later determined that the subject who passed the fire trucks was responsible for the fire and was rushing back home after he heard it had escaped. The man had not taken the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the fire and had left it unattended for several hours. Charges are being sought through the county prosecutor's office.
- **CO Shannon Kritz** was on patrol when she noticed a vehicle parked near a closed trout stream. CO Kritz walked along the stream and observed a subject fishing in the stream. CO Kritz approached the subject and asked if he was aware the stream was closed until the last Saturday in April. The angler gave CO Kritz a variety of excuses including that he didn't know he couldn't catch and release in the stream, that he had confused the stream with one that was

open, and that he wasn't aware it was a trout stream at all. CO Kritz instructed the fisherman on how to look up designated trout stream maps online and issued him a citation for fishing in a closed trout stream.

- **CO Anna Viau** participated in a multi-agency specialized patrol in Iron County. The patrol targeted traffic safety violations and assisted the Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team (UPSET) with known drug activity. Other agencies participating in the patrol included Michigan State Police troopers, Iron County deputies, Caspian Police Department, and Iron River Police Department. Overall, three warrants were satisfied during the patrol, along with several other traffic violations and emergency calls that were addressed.
- **COs John Kamps and Josh Boudreaux** were discussing litter investigations when CO Kamps mentioned not being able to locate a suspect who was responsible for an ice shanty that fell through the ice. As the pair talked, CO Boudreaux asked what the guy's last name was so he could assist in locating him. As CO Kamps told him the name, CO Boudreaux looked up in surprise. CO Boudreaux had been looking for the same individual for an unrelated illegal dumping incident on the other side of the county and it turns out that both COs had been making repeated efforts to contact the same individual. The COs paired up and using a description of the suspect's vehicle and general location they drove around until they located him at a residence in Ishpeming. The individual confessed to both incidents and was issued two citations for littering.
- **CO John Kamps** responded to an AED incident near Little Lake. CO Kamps arrived at the residence to find a husband doing CPR on his wife. The AED was utilized but no shock was administered. CPR was continued until EMS arrived shortly after. Unfortunately, the woman did not survive. Just moments later, CO Kamps responded to a suicidal female who cut herself and had driven through Gwinn. CO Kamps and the Forsyth Police Department located the female at a residence near Little Lake who was bleeding profusely. The subject was uncooperative with Law Enforcement. Forsyth Police and CO Kamps secured the scene until EMS arrived and stopped the bleeding. EMS then transported the subject to the hospital for treatment.
- **CO Kamps** was able to complete an investigation on an individual who had an ice shack fall through the ice. The individual had removed his name from the ice shack and failed to remove the shack prior to the April 1st deadline. The CO was able to develop a suspect and after questioning, admitted that the ice shack was his property and that he removed his name fearing that he would not get it off the ice in time. A citation was issued to the individual for failing to remove the ice shack. The ice shack was picked up by a local resident with an air boat and towed to shore.

Fisheries Division: George Madison, Western Lake Superior Management Unit

The following are the western Upper Peninsula fisheries division highlights for the period of March 18, 2021 through May 18, 2021, on behalf of the following Western UP Fisheries Division staff:

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

Fisheries Management Units (George Madison)

- **Staff Report:** The ice-departure on inland lakes marked the beginning of the 2021 open water field season. While open water might indicate the beginning of fisheries division's field season, our survey crews were actually conducting field work through late winter lake-ice conditions to implement fisheries surveys on northern pike evaluation on Craig Lake. Electrofishing was conducted on the Portage/Torch waterway to collect walleye for surgical implantment of acoustic transmitters, and the acoustic receiver arrays gave been deployed (see photo). The Menominee River sturgeon lift at the Hattie Street Dam resumed fish passage operations, with crews staffing the elevator in through-the-night work shifts.



Portage/Torch waterway, acoustic receiver buoys

Remote sensing temperature loggers were deployed at various lakes and streams. The lake sturgeon rearing trailers were set up at the Whitefish River, Cedar River, and outlet of Lake Gogebic. Larval sturgeon netting was conducted to populate the streamside rearing trailers with fish that will become fall fingerling plant-outs in September 2021.

All spring fish egg takes were conducted this year, with walleye, steelhead, lake sturgeon, and muskellunge being the fish for this season's rearing. Walleye fingerling stockings into Upper Peninsula rearing ponds began on May 4th and continued until all requested sites received fish.

All 2021 splake that were stocked in Lake Superior were given fin clips, which were unique to the ports of Munising, Copper Harbor, and an experimental stocking at Union Bay (Porcupine Mtns site). Anglers are asked to look for fin clips on any splake they catch, and clips can be reported to the Michigan DNR website, or by calling any DNR office.

On May 3rd, an experimental stocking of the Wisconsin strain brown trout was conducted on the Ontonagon River, with 10,000 yearling fish (8-9 inch length) being released. Of note, due to the Covid work-safe rules in 2020 and 2021, the Wisconsin brown trout did not receive a fin clip for these two stocking years.

▪ **Hatchery Report:**

– *Marquette:*

- Lake trout & splake are being vaccinated for furunculosis.
- Stocking is wrapping up mid-May. All stocking sites have received the requested numbers of brook trout and splake.
- A stream stabilization project upstream from the Marquette Hatchery is expected to be executed on May 16.

– *Thompson:*

- The new coolwater facility (walleye ponds) are up and running (see photo below). The rearing ponds received walleye eggs in early May and the facility is now rearing fry in the ponds.
- Steelhead eggs have arrived.



Thompson State Fish Hatchery Rearing Ponds

Public Information: John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer

- As we begin to move into regular springtime and summer events, please let me know when there are field activities taking place that I can get out to take photos of. There are numerous things that we need photos for, so I will be traveling a good deal to take photos across the U.P. I would like to arrange my schedule in line with DNR activities taking place. Please send me any potential activities to shoot at pepinj@michigan.gov or call or text me at 906-250-7260. Thanks very much.
- "Ask the DNR" completed its current season May 6. The live broadcasts will return in the fall. I will detail the dates when they become available. Weekly Outdoors North columns continue to appear in The Mining Journal, Escanaba Daily Press and Houghton Daily Mining Gazette.

Forest Resources Division: Tom Seablom, Western UP District Supervisor

- Staff continue to telework. Staff have been informed that this will continue into at least July 2021. For more information on the DNR COVID- 19 response go to www.michigan.gov/dnr.
- Field work on the 2023 YOE Inventory is ongoing. Due to the ongoing pandemic the division will be hold public meetings in a virtual format. Open House comment periods for the Baraga Unit will start April 20th to May 20th and for the Escanaba Unit from July 11th to August 10th. Open house Comment Periods and Compartment Review schedules for other units are posted online along with other state forest inventory information at www.michigan.gov/forestry.
- As of April 28th, 334 timber sale contracts are open WUP Wide. This represents 901,699 cords of timber on 51,815 acres, valued at approximately \$37.4 million. Included in this are 12 GNA sales representing 47,725 cords of timber on 3,341 acres, valued at approximately \$2.4 million.
- WUP units report 22 active timber sales in the WUP totaling about 974 acres. Units report improving demand with active bidding, but we are still seeing some sales going no bid.
- The Gwinn Unit welcomes Kyle Gould to the Unit as a Forest Technician. Kyle is a recent graduate of Michigan State University. He has worked several Summers as a student forester and has worked for industry.
- The Forest Management staff is currently training and implementing a new timber cruise protocol. For more information about the new Timber Cruise Protocol go to www.michigan.gov/timber.
- Forest protection staff is in the middle of the spring fire season. To date in the UP, there have been 24 fires totaling about 79 acres. Currently there have not been any out of state assignments. Earlier in the year several staff participate on an All-hazard Type 3 Incident Management Team assignment at the Ford Field and Mobile Vaccination Site.
- The Commercial Forest Program has received the new 2021 CF listing application. The number of acres of new enrollment applications is down from past years. About 3,000 acres have be applied for in the WUP with about 1,400 acres in the rest of the state. Many of the new applications are from Lyme Great Lakes Timber, Green Leaf Timber, and Minerick acquisitions. The reduced application for enrollment is likely attributable to landowners choosing to enroll in Qualified Forest Program instead of the Commercial Forest Program. For more information on the Commercial Forest Program go to www.michigan.gov/commercialforest.
- A second winter of hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) surveys were completed along the Lake Michigan shoreline across the UP in partnership with local Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area staff with funding from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program. No HWA was detected.

Wildlife Division: John DePue, Wildlife Biologist-Baraga

- **Bats:** The bat populations at the few sites surveyed this past winter are down 89% from pre-white- nose syndrome numbers. However, there are several hibernacula where the populations have stabilized or slightly increased from lows due to WNS. The Department continues to work with researchers to develop a method to mitigate the impacts from the disease WNS.
- **Turkeys:** Turkey license sale are up significantly again this year. The 6,000 turkey licenses available in unit "M", the U.P. have sold out again for the second year in a row. There are still turkey licenses available for use in the U.P. under the hunt zone 234. Reports are that hunters are having favorable success turkey hunting this season.
- **Habitat:** Wildlife plantings and habitat improvement projects have started this spring around the U.P. Soft and hard mast tree planting at GEMs and wildlife opening has begun in many units throughout the U.P. as well as wildfire burns to maintain and improve openings for wildlife.

- **Bears:** Bears are out and looking for easy food sources, we are getting complaints around the U.P. of nuisance bears issues. Please remind folks to keep their garbage indoors, take bird feeders and remove other food sources that attract bears to avoid conflicts.
- **Wildlife Surveys:** The breeding waterfowl survey just finished un in the U.P. Doe to fawn spring survey is wrapping up. Spring woodcock surveys are currently underway across the U.P. this month. Sharp-tail grouse surveys in the East U.P. have finished up for the year.

Get out and enjoy spring!