



## Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: May 2022 (Information current as of 5/10/2022)

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*

April 18, 2021

Contact: Doug Rich, 906-353-6651

#### ***DNR approves land gift increasing acreage at Craig Lake State Park in Marquette County***

The U.P. Land Conservancy has gifted nearly 1,300 acres of pristine highlands wilderness in Marquette County to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to protect the property from degradation and maintain public access.

“We are pleased to have this wonderful legacy donation to add to the very special Craig Lake State Park,” said Ron Olson, chief of the DNR’s Parks and Recreation Division.

The property includes three parcels that made up the conservancy’s Peshekee Headwaters Nature Preserve, which lies along the eastern edge of Craig Lake State Park.

Among its attributes, the property contains nearly 90% of the watershed that fills Indian Lake, which is headwaters of the West Branch of the Peshekee River, along with 10 miles of hiking trails that connect to the adjacent state park.

“The watershed, lake and river are a source of freshwater that provides healthy drinking water and clean fish to eat, provides many kinds of safe recreation for the community and visitors, and supports healthy forest ecosystems downstream,” said Andrea Denham, executive director of the conservancy. “The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is the best partner in continued protection of this freshwater resource given the work they already do to protect forests and fresh waters in the Peshekee River Watershed.”

To the DNR, this gift improves access to 120 acres of state ownership, provides additional recreation opportunities, including hiking, hunting, trapping, and fishing, and ensures the land remains open to the public and enjoyed for generations to come. The land is home to diverse wildlife including moose, bears, white-tailed deer, wolves and loons.

“This property augments the remarkable remote landscape at Craig Lake State Park,” said Doug Rich, western Upper Peninsula district supervisor for the DNR’s Parks and Recreation Division. “The acquisition also helps achieve department goals and supports strategies and plans involving trails, public lands and protecting natural resources for the future.”

Under the transaction, the conservancy will pay \$62,000 in back taxes on the property. After which, Marquette County will be eligible for payments in lieu of taxes on the land from the state of Michigan.

Michigan Township unanimously supported a resolution in favor of the gift of land at their Nov. 8, 2021 township board meeting.

DNR staff in the Parks and Recreation Division moved the gifting proposal forward to the department’s real estate and executive divisions for consideration. The transaction was approved and signed by DNR Director Dan Eichinger and announced at this month’s meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission.

Craig Lake State Park, encompassing just under 8,500 acres, has walk-in campsites and other camping options, including yurts and rustic cabins. It is the most remote state park in Michigan.

The park contains six full lakes and a variety of wildlife. Craig Lake has a main trail covering 8 miles, while the National North Country Scenic Trail runs here too for more than 7 miles. Find out more about the land gift.

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## REMINDER: Hiring seasonal park positions for spring, summer and fall

Whether you want to spend more time in some of Michigan's most beautiful destinations, keep busy in retirement or lay the foundation for a career in natural resources, one of hundreds of positions as a seasonal park worker or ranger with the DNR Parks and Recreation Division may be right for you.

There are approximately 1,300 seasonal park worker positions available in state parks, state forest campgrounds, boating access sites and harbors. These frontline staff help answer visitor questions, register campers, clean park buildings, mow grass, maintain trails and more. The positions start at an hourly rate of \$10.20 or \$11 (depending on region) and offer flexible scheduling (up to 1,040 hours between April and October) and may qualify for academic or internship credit.

More than 50 seasonal park rangers also will be hired throughout the state. A park ranger helps carry out day-to-day operations and maintenance and other essential duties. Positions are paid between \$18.29 and \$25.70 an hour and receive state employment benefits. To apply, visit [Michigan.gov/DNRJobs](https://Michigan.gov/DNRJobs):

- **Seasonal park worker positions:** Should be 18 or older and have a high school diploma or equivalent. Provide your name, email, phone number and desired work location(s) on the interest form. Applying should take less than five minutes. Interested applicants also can text "Hire" to 80888 and receive a link to the interest form.
- **Seasonal park ranger positions:** Must be 18 or older and have a high school diploma or equivalent. Complete a State of Michigan employment application.

"If you love Michigan's great outdoors and are looking for a seasonal position with flexible hours, come work where you like to spend time the most," said Michael Desnoyer, administrative services chief for the DNR Parks and Recreation Division. "These positions are also ideal for college students, teachers and retirees." Learn more about these and other openings at [Michigan.gov/DNRJobs](https://Michigan.gov/DNRJobs). Questions? Contact [Michael Desnoyer](mailto:Michael.Desnoyer@Michigan.gov) at 517-242-2194

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

The Natural Resources Commission met on the campus of Lansing Community College in Lansing on April 14. Major actions:

- The commission approved regulations for the 2022-2023 elk hunting seasons. The license quota structure for those seasons will be similar to that used in 2020-2021. The new regulations eliminate a provisional January hunt period, which has been available as needed in the event other hunt periods don't meet management goals. However, the January hunt period hasn't been used since 2008 and there is very little time to prepare a hunt if it is used. If management goals aren't met, the department can adjust quotas in the subsequent year.
- Director Dan Eichinger approved seven land transactions. Details of these transactions can be found in the DNR agenda.

### **Wildlife Committee**

Dr. Megan Moriarty introduced herself as the new wildlife veterinary specialist for the DNR's Wildlife Division. Together with Emily Sewell of the Wildlife Division and Dr. Nora Wineland of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, they updated the committee on bovine tuberculosis surveillance in the state. Bovine TB, which affects cattle and deer and can be transmitted to humans, has been found in a number of counties in northeastern Michigan. The DNR tests deer for the disease through deer check stations, permits, drop boxes and processors. In 2021 we tested 11,791 deer. Since 1995 we have tested 334,090 deer. Apparent prevalence of the disease in adult deer in Deer Management Unit 452 – which comprises portions of Montmorency, Alpena, Alcona and Oscoda counties – was 1.4 percent in 2021, down from previous years. However, Dr. Moriarty emphasized that we will have to wait for subsequent years to see if this data point constitutes a trend. Dr. Wineland also explained surveillance efforts in cattle herds. The presenters emphasized the importance of proper farming practices, continued surveillance, ongoing vigilance and cooperation among state agencies to eradicate bovine TB in Michigan.

Scott Whitcomb of the Executive Division and Melinda Cosgrove of the Wildlife Division gave a presentation on surveillance of chronic wasting disease in deer. CWD has been identified in 10 counties in Michigan. In 2021 the DNR tested just under 7,200 deer for the disease. Twenty-five CWD positive deer were detected in 2021, including three in Isabella County, which represented a new county in which we have identified the disease. Through the 2021 deer seasons, the department implemented more targeted testing goals, following a region-by-region strategy aimed at detecting new outbreaks of CWD rather than revisiting known ones. This year the department tested deer across counties in the southern Lower Peninsula. Next year testing will concentrate on the middle tier of Lower Peninsula counties and continue in some counties in the southern Lower Peninsula. We will continue to rotate surveillance efforts to different parts of the state to determine the scope of CWD in Michigan, while supporting limited testing in areas of known occurrence of the disease.

Chad Stewart of the Wildlife Division presented to the committee an overview of deer management in Michigan. The department's deer management plan focuses on maintaining a healthy deer population using sound scientific management and maximizing recreational opportunities while minimizing negative impacts on ecosystems and other wildlife. Chad reviewed the tools the department has at its disposal to manage the state's deer herd, which include: hunter numbers; bag limits; seasons and season dates; weapons used for harvest; and the types of deer harvested. Chad's summary conclusions about deer management:

- Deer hunting has changed over recent years and will continue to change. Our management has to continue to respond to these changes.
- Multiple data sets are measured to detect trends that occur over time. These data are used to support recommendations.
- Deer research is widely supported and used to inform management decisions.

### **Committee of the Whole**

Seth Herbst of the Fisheries Division presented proposed changes to lake trout harvest and regulations in Northern Lake Huron. The 2000 Consent Decree -- an agreement among federal, state and tribal governments -- dictates that if either the state or tribes exceed agreed-upon harvest levels by more than 15 percent in one year, the amount of the overage is deducted from the next year's harvest limit and the responsible party is required to take management action. During the 2021 fishing season, the state exceeded its harvest limit by 20 percent. Although this over-harvest was not biologically harmful to lake trout populations, the department expects to have to reduce harvest in 2022 from about 68,000 pounds to about 40,000 pounds. To achieve that goal, the department is recommending reducing the daily possession limit from 3 lake trout and splake to 2 in MH-1, the northern-most management unit in Lake Huron. The department is considering increasing the harvest level in the management unit immediately to the south, MH-2, to provide increased angler opportunity there. The proposal for increased harvest in MH-2 will be discussed with the Lake Huron Fishery Citizen Advisory Committee before the department finalizes any recommendation.

A report on legislation affecting the department is below.

## ***May 12, 2022 NRC Agenda - Crystal Mountain, Thompsonville, MI***

**Coffee with Commissioners – 8:00-9:00 a.m. (Arctic Bay Room)**

**Committee Agendas – 9:00 a.m. (Hudson Bay Room)**

- I. Wildlife Committee
  - a. Deer Regulations Overview cont'd (*Chad Stewart, Wildlife Division*)
  - b. MSU Research Update (*Dwayne Etter, Wildlife Division & Dr. David Williams, Michigan State University*)
  - c. Utilizing Dog Trackers for Deer (*Captain David Malloch, Law Enforcement Division*)

**Committee of the Whole Agenda – 11:00 a.m.**

- I. Call to Order – Chair Carol Moncrieff Rose
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Approval of Minutes
  - a. April 14, 2022
  - b. April 14, 2022 Closed Session
- V. Director's Report

- a. Recognition of Former Commissioners
  - i. Louis Klarr
  - ii. Vicki Pontz
  - iii. Rex Schlaybaugh
  - iv. Chris Tracy
  - v. John Walters
- b. Furtakers of America – Trappers College Award (*Mark Spencer, President, and Dale Hendershot, Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association*)

**10 MINUTE BREAK**

- c. Land Use Order of the Director Amendment Nos. 2-4 (*Nicole Hunt, Parks and Recreation Division*)
- d. Deer Harvest Reporting (*Chad Stewart, Wildlife Division*)
- e. Legislative Report (*Informational Item*)

**BREAK FOR LUNCH – RETURN AT 1:00 p.m.**

- VI. Public Comment – NRC Public Appearance Guidelines
  - a. 5-Minute Comment
  - b. 3-Minute Comment
- VII. New Business
  - a. Director’s Orders
    - i. State Land Review Recommendations Group 4 – FOR ACTION
    - ii. Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 2 of 2022, Designated dark sky preserve, state park lands; allowable conduct
    - iii. Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 3 of 2022, North Higgins Lake State Park and Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center Prohibited Conduct
    - iv. Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 4 of 2022 State Parks and Recreation Areas, prohibited conduct
    - v. Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 5 of 2022 Boating Access Sites and Harbors Uses
  - b. Land Transactions
    - i. Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land, Forest Resources Division, Chippewa County Land Transaction Case #20210284
    - ii. Conveyance of DNR-Managed Land for Public Use Forest Resources Division, Antrim County Land Transaction Case #20220010
    - iii. Exchange of State Parks and Recreation Land Wildlife Division, Saginaw County, Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Land Exchange Land Transaction Case #20190015
    - iv. Exchange of State Parks and Recreation Land Parks and Recreation Division, Ionia County City of Belding Land Exchange, Land Transaction Case #20210258
    - v. Acquisition of State Managed Land Wildlife Division, Saginaw County The Demand Tract, Land Transaction Case #20210230
  - c. NRC/Director Orders
    - i. Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 4 of 2022, Deer Harvest Reporting
- VIII. Old Business
  - a. Director’s Orders – None
  - b. NRC/Director Orders
    - i. Fisheries Order 253.22A, Great Lakes and Great Lakes Connecting Waters - Trout and Salmon Regulations
      - Commissioner Baird Amendment
- IX. Committee Reports
- X. Commissioner Comments
- XI. Adjournment

### ***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 **NEW NUMBER! 517-599-1067** 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)).

## ***April 2022 Legislative Updates – Legislative & Legal Affairs Office***

### **HB 4078 – Allow an Individual to Possess a Loaded Firearm in or on a Vehicle when on Private Property – Rep.**

**LaFave:** The bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to possess or transport a loaded firearm in or upon a vehicle, including an ATV or UTV, if the individual owns the private land or is accompanied by or has permission of the owner or lessee of the private land.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and was referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

**HB 4080 (S-1) – 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 for the 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 archery season. The legislation caps the available permit up to ten individuals who submit certification from medical professional on a form the department must develop.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and reported with recommendation as an S-1 by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. The bill is currently awaiting a vote on the Senate floor.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

**HB 4152 (S-4) – Modify Penalties for Violations of Certain Hunting Provisions – Rep. Howell:** The bill would decriminalize the several hunting and fishing provisions from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine up to \$150.00.

- 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 23 of 2022.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

**HB 4242 (S-2) – Allow Export of Live Minnows, Wigglers or Crayfish as Bait – Rep. Alexander:** This bill would allow for the export of live minnow, wigglers, or crayfish as bait.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. The bill has been signed into law by the Governor and is Public Act 30 of 2022.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

### **HBs 4205 and 4206 – Provide Free Snowmobile Weekend on Snowmobile Trails – Reps. Roth and S. Johnson:**

House Bill 4205 would require that before the start of each snowmobile season, the Department would be required to designate one weekend in the snowmobile season during which a registration would not be required to operate a snowmobile on snowmobile trails. House Bill 4206 would require that before the start of each snowmobile season, the Department would be required to designate one weekend in the snowmobile season during which a trail permit would not be required to operate a snowmobile on snowmobile trails.

- These bills were passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. The bills have been signed into law by the Governor and as Public Acts 55 and 56 of 2022.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

**HB 4332 (H-1) – 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 passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. The bill has been signed into law by the Governor and is Public Act 57 of 2022.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

**HB 5631 – Require Creation of Michigan Woodcock Restoration Plan – Rep. Cherry:** This bill would put into statute a requirement that the Department must create an American woodcock restoration plan in consultation with several organizations outlined in the legislation by December 31, 2023.

- The 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 5642 – Designate Official State Butterfly – Rep. Brixie:** This bill designates the black swallowtail butterfly as the official butterfly of the state of Michigan.

- This 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 5740 – Seven Day Hunting License for Senior Citizens – Rep. Eisen:** This bill would create a seven-day senior deer license for a fee of \$12.00 that would be valid for taking antlered or antlerless deer during any seven-day period from October 1 to November 1 with a firearm on private land.

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

**HB 5902 – Regulate the Use of Bait During Hunting Season – Rep. Eisen:** The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow for the baiting of deer and elk.

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

**SB 251 (S-2) – Modify Commercial Fishing Regulations – Sen. McBroom:** The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act for the purpose of restricting the DNR’s authority to issue Fisheries Orders for the management of the state-licensed commercial fishery. In addition, the bill would make a number of changes including putting current fisheries orders into statute.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. The bill has been signed into law by the Governor and is Public Act 34 of 2022.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

*If you would like to learn more about these and other bills, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at <https://www.legislature.mi.gov>.*

## Good Information to Know

### DNR Public Meetings – Future Dates

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

May 12	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Thompsonville (call 517-599-1067)
May 17	Wolf Management Advisory Committee-Meeting, 9am, Marquette Township Community Center (call 517-599-1067)
May 17	Western Upper Peninsula Citizens’ Advisory Council, 6pm, Marquette Township Community Center
May 17	UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, 1pm, Berland area
May 18	UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, 1pm, Baraga area
May 18	Equine Trails Subcommittee, 1pm (contact 517-331-6219)
May 19	UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, TBD, Shingleton area
May 20	Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council, 10am (call 517-582-3220)

May 24	Accessibility Advisory Council, 9am (contact 517-284-5946)
June 7	Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Council, 6pm, LSSU in Sault Ste. Marie
June 9	Forest Compartment Review-Baraga Management Unit (call 906-201-4688)
June 9	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing (call 517-599-1067)
June 17	UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, TBD, Sault Ste. Marie area
July 14	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing (call 517-599-1067)
July 20	Western Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Council, 6pm, MTU in Houghton

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## **U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities**

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

June 11	Kids Fishing Day at the DNR Pocket Park (UP State Fairgrounds)-Free for kids 16 years & younger
June 11-12	Free Fishing Weekend
June 11-12	Free ORV Weekend
July 4	Baraga State Park - 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Festivities
July 22	Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Iron Ore Heritage Bike Tour
July 23	Baraga State Park - Christmas in July
August 5	Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Iron Ore Heritage Bike Tour
August 12	Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Iron Ore Heritage Bike Tour
August 13	Fayette Historic Townsite - Fayette Heritage Days
<b>August 15-21</b>	<b>DNR Pocket Park / UP State Fair Week - See Kristi to Volunteer!</b>

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## ***Recent DNR Press Releases***

For full details, go to: [www.michigan.gov/dnrpressroom](http://www.michigan.gov/dnrpressroom)

- Lake Superior anglers asked to report marked splake (5/9/22)
  - Northern Michigan weekend wildfire danger is high; take care outdoors (5/6/22)
  - Showcasing the DNR: New services coming to Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park (5/6/22)
  - Spring turkey hunt 234 opens tomorrow! Pick up a license now (5/6/22)
  - DNR Get Involved: state park volunteering, state forest input, sturgeon guarding (5/5/22)
  - Clean Boats Clean Waters program seeking summer mobile boat wash crew (5/5/22)
  - Elk and bear license applications on sale now through June (5/5/22)
  - Purchase your Michigan ORV license and trail permit (5/4/22)
  - DNR News: May morels, thank a firefighter, new 'Wildtalk' and spring fawns (5/3/22)
  - It's spongy moth (formerly gypsy moth) season: What to expect in 2022 5/2/22)
  - Fire safety is key during dry, warm weather (4/29/22)
  - Public input welcome on state forest plans for 2024 (4/28/22)
  - Get discount on mapping tool to up your turkey hunting game (4/28/22)
  - Showcasing the DNR: One tree can make a difference (4/28/22)
  - Fishing the St. Marys River, Whitefish Bay? Creel clerks want to connect with you (4/28/22)
  - DNR customer service centers, most field offices to resume pre-COVID hours May 1 (4/27/22)
  - DNR pledges 50 million trees by 2030, invites residents to help 'plant it forward' (4/27/22)
  - Share your thoughts with the DNR at upcoming meetings (4/27/22)
  - Great Lakes research vessels collect valuable information on fish populations (4/25/22)
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## Grant Contacts

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

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| ▪ Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant     | Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, <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> |
| ▪ Aquatic Habitat Grant                           | Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, <a href="mailto:parkerk4@michigan.gov">parkerk4@michigan.gov</a>   |
| ▪ Michigan Invasive Species Grant                 | Kammy Frayre, 517-284-5970, <a href="mailto:frayrek1@michigan.gov">frayrek1@michigan.gov</a>   |
| ▪ Wildlife Habitat Grant                          | Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, <a href="mailto:parkerk4@michigan.gov">parkerk4@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>   |

## Eastern UPCAC Update

The **Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council** met on April 27 in person in Newberry. The following topics were included on the agenda and discussed:

- DNR Division Reports by staff
- Wolf Management Advisory Council Meeting Update
- Cormorant Update
- Michigan State Waterways Commission Update by Mr. Patrick Egan, Waterways Commissioner
- Upcoming Eastern UP State Campground & Boat Launch Renovations
- Subcommittee Reports: Fisheries Subcommittee presented a resolution regarding including enhanced walleye rearing in the Fisheries Division's next year's budget. This was the same resolution passed at the last WUPCAC meeting. The EUPCAC passed the resolution by majority. Policy Impact did not have anything to report at this time.
- The next meeting will be on June 7, 2022, in Sault Ste. Marie at LSSU.

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

## Division Updates

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

- CO Shannon Kritz received a RAP complaint from a landowner who found deer carcasses dumped on her property. CO Kritz responded to the property and counted 18 sets of deer ribs along with various deer parts that were dumped and scattered on the complainant's property. CO Kritz also located three Deer Management Assistance Permit (DMAP) licenses that were still attached to legs and a deer license attached to a deer skull. CO Kritz followed up with the hunter the deer license belonged to. The hunter admitted to dumping 22 deer carcasses on the complainant's property. She explained that she processes deer and gives the meat to people around the community for free. The suspect received donated carcasses from several DMAP permitted farms. The suspect knew the farmer who leases the farming rights to the complainant's property and thought she could dump the carcasses there. CO Kritz informed the suspect that farming leases do not extend to anybody but the farmer, and that it was illegal to dump the deer on the complainant's property. The suspect was cited for littering.
- COs Shannon Kritz and Jeremy Sergey attended a career fair at the National Guard Armory in Calumet. This was a boss lift event where employers had the opportunity to experience what soldiers do while they are completing their drill weekends. This was also an opportunity to demonstrate the skills soldiers bring to the job market along with demonstrating the importance of the duties that soldiers complete during their drill weekends. CO Kritz and CO Sergey made many contacts during this event and were able to explain how the skills, leadership, and integrity that soldiers possess could translate into a career as a conservation officer.
- Lt. Ryan Aho, CO Anna Viau, and PCO Josh Salas attended a career fair at a local school in Iron County. The COs presented to students about the DNR Law Enforcement Division and what the career entails. The COs answered questions about job requirements and shared their experiences becoming Michigan Conservation Officers.

- CO Alex VanWagner followed up on a prior complaint regarding a collapsed ice shanty which was left out on a lake in Iron County for multiple weeks. The subject previously stated the shanty was left out there after the free fishing weekend. The CO recontacted the subject and the shanty was now sunk in and froze in the ice. A citation was issued for failing to remove the shanty after March 31.
- CO Alex VanWagner was checking lakes and observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar indicated the driver was traveling at 84 mph in a 55 mph zone. The driver stated he was late for a meeting and admitted to going 80 mph. A citation was issued for speeding.
- CO Alex VanWagner responded to an address in Crystal Falls Township to assist Iron County deputies with a possible suicidal subject. Contact was made with the subject and his wife after suicidal text messages were sent. The incident was turned over to the Iron County Sheriff's Office.
- CO Alex VanWagner received a complaint from dispatch regarding a deer carcass that was dumped in Bates Township. Contact was made with the complainant who stated his dog discovered the carcass and it had an antlerless kill tag attached to it. An RSS check showed who the tag belonged to, and contact was made with the subject. The subject stated he and his son both harvested deer and his son just got around to dumping the carcass. The subject admitted he shot the deer with a crossbow during late bow season. A report was submitted to the Iron County Prosecutor's Office for taking a deer with a crossbow illegally.
- CO John Kamps and PCO Marc Mankowski responded to a supplemental feeding complaint in an area where many car-deer accidents have occurred. The COs located multiple hay bales and corn piles throughout the property that were within a quarter mile from a paved highway. The COs explained the safety hazard that it was creating at the nearby roadway as well as the rules regarding supplemental feeding. A warning was issued to the property owner, and they were given 24 hours to clean up the feed.
- CO John Kamps and PCO Marc Mankowski contacted two anglers as they were returning to their vehicles. One of the individuals admitted to not having a fishing license and catching three fish. The COs checked the cooler in the back of the fisherman's vehicle and located three Coho salmon. The fish were seized, and a citation was issued for possessing fish without a valid fishing license.
- CO John Kamps and PCO Marc Mankowski contacted a trapper who was loading up his gear prior to checking his trap. During routine check of the trapper, the COs noticed many untagged traps. Additionally, when the trapper escorted the COs to the trap in the water, it was determined that the trap was untagged as well. A citation was issued for using a trap that was not tagged with owner identification.
- CO Cody Smith responded to a two-car accident near Three Lakes on US 41. Upon arrival to the scene, he discovered two vehicles blocking the roadway. Occupants from both vehicles sustained substantial lacerations from the impact. CO Smith assisted Michigan first responders while the ambulances were enroute. CO Smith dispatched for an MDOT truck to salt the problem area of the roadway. The road was opened back up and traffic resumed as normal.
- COs Jeremy Sergey, John Kamps, Anna Viau and PCOs Joshua Salas and Marc Mankowski presented at the Marquette County Sheriff's Office Youth Police Academy. The COs spoke with students about the various duties that Conservation Officers conduct in law enforcement. Students then took part in a species ID activity and were given a scenario where they had to conduct a check on a hunter and locate various deer hunting violations. Several students were very enthusiastic about pursuing the job of a CO in their future.

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

- As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, DNR offices have returned to our pre-pandemic hours. Some staff have elected to continue working from home under Remote Work Agreements while others have returned to their respective work location.
- Field work on the 2024 YOE Inventory continues. As we return to more normal operations the department will return to holding in person Open Houses starting with the Baraga Unit Open House on May 19<sup>th</sup> and in the Escanaba Unit on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Open House comment periods will remain for people that don't want to meet in person. For the Baraga Unit comment periods started April 19<sup>th</sup> ending May 19<sup>th</sup>, the Escanaba Unit will start July 9<sup>th</sup> ending August 9<sup>th</sup>. Open house Comment Periods and Compartment Review schedules for other units are posted online along with other state forest inventory information at: [Michigan.Gov/Forestry](https://Michigan.Gov/Forestry).

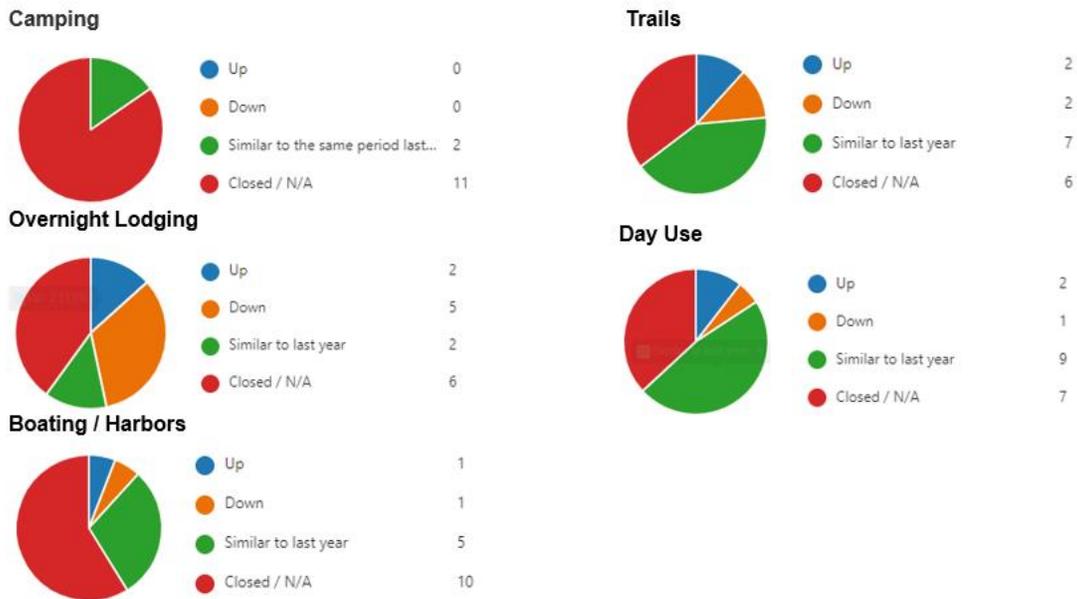
- As of May 4th, 320 timber sale contracts are open WUP Wide. This represents 878,473 cords of timber on 50,492 acres, valued at approximately \$33.5 million. Included in this are 22 GNA sales representing 74,147 cords of timber on 4,771 acres, valued at approximately \$2.9 million
- WUP Units are reporting 12 Active Timber Sales in the WUP totaling about 751 acres. Units report good demand for hardwood sawtimber and red pine.
- The fire protection staff have responded to 5 reportable wildfires totaling 7 acres. The department has conducted 1 prescribed burn in the WUP to improve wildlife habitat on the Escanaba unit treating approximately 56 acres.
- We are coming into the season of most concern for fire activity, when fuels are dead and dry after the winter months. As the forest floor starts to “Green-up” and the trees flush with new growth there will be a little reprieve until July and August when fuels start drying out again. It’s too early to know if any drought conditions will materialize in Michigan. Fire Protection staff will likely be participating in western fire dispatch this year if other states reach critical thresholds in fuels or weather. No staff are currently out of state on western fire dispatch.
- The Forest Utilization and Marketing program is surveying two sectors of the forest industry this spring. The sawmill (primary manufacturers) survey is underway right now and the loggers (wood producers) survey will be coming out in April. The loggers’ survey is part of a tri-state survey with Minnesota and Wisconsin to survey all loggers in the Great Lakes Region every 5 years. Reports and analysis of each survey will be available in the fall of 2022 and circulated to various groups and posted to the forest products industry web page at: [Michigan.Gov/ForestProducts](https://Michigan.Gov/ForestProducts)
- In early April, the forest health program collected branches from surviving large elms near the Wisconsin border for propagation and use in efforts to breed Dutch elm disease tolerant elms. Reports of large healthy elm trees (DBH greater than 22 inches) from colder climate zones in inland areas are welcomed at the [survivor elm website](#). The forest health program is raising awareness of the high risk of oak wilt infection through wounds on oak trees from April 15-July 15 in Menominee, Dickinson, and Iron counties, where oak wilt is established. The risk of oak wilt infection is lower across the rest of the U.P. where oak wilt has not been detected.
- Open enrollment for the Commercial Forest Program ended April 1<sup>st</sup>. Commercial Forest staff is working on preparing for spring-summer inspections of over 3,000 acres of new enrollment applications statewide. For more information on the Commercial Forest Program go to [Michigan.Gov/Commercialforest](https://Michigan.Gov/Commercialforest)
- The Escanaba unit welcomes a new forest technician, Mitchell Reger started April 18th. He is from Elburn, IL and has a Forestry Degree from Iowa State University. He graduated in 2019 and went to right to work at MSU Forest Biomass Innovation Center in Escanaba. He enjoys hiking, kayaking, running, and exploring and just about everything else that can be done outdoors. Since moving to the UP he has taken up some new hobbies, making maple syrup and scuba diving.

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

- The 2021-2022 season of Ask the DNR concluded on May 5 on WNMU-TV13. The 2022-2023 season will begin next fall.
- We have had a great season of shows, with panelists returning to the studio after the long coronavirus hiatus. In the coming season, we will continue to feature guests from various divisions of the DNR. This season, we had representatives from the Forest Resources and Executive divisions, in addition to the standard presence of personnel from the Law Enforcement, Fisheries and Wildlife divisions. We also had several new folks on the show this season. That’s fantastic! If you are interested in suggesting a potential panelist or division be featured on the show, please let me know. We also welcome DNR staffers interested in working to answer phones during the show. If you would like to do this, let me know.

- The DNR’s west and east incident management teams are gearing up for spring fire season. I continue to serve as a public information officer on the west team.
- Our Showcasing the DNR feature story series is published each Thursday. We are currently scheduling stories for issue from the second week in July through Jan. 31, 2023. To see the story archive visit [Michigan.gov/DNRStories](https://Michigan.gov/DNRStories). Please send story ideas and offers to contribute to the increasingly popular statewide series to me at [pepinj@michigan.gov](mailto:pepinj@michigan.gov).

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



**Camping**

Twin Lakes	More snow later in the season, which is leading to a delay in the campground opening to the public.
McLain	A lot of snow in the campground, it is slowly melting, hopefully it is gone by opening day of May 6 <sup>th</sup> .
Escanaba FO	Calls have already begun for camping availability for the season in our rustic sites. Our campgrounds only became accessible the week of 4/25 due to snow and cold weather. Staff have begun opening procedures for our 4 state forest campgrounds in the Gwinn area.
Lake Gogebic	Repairs were made to a frozen and damaged sewage line in the park. Small projects were begun in both toilet/shower buildings in the campground. These projects are aimed at water conservation in the showers as well as visual improvements. .
Lake Gogebic Field Crew	An extensive remodel project was completed on the Peshekee Cabin at Craig Lake State Park. This project included an exterior wall reframing, all new windows, new exterior siding, and tongue and groove interior work. A shower remodel project and a new floor for the contact station at Baraga State Park were also completed in April.
Baraga	Staff has been getting the park ready for the 4/29 opening. Cold temperatures, late snowfall and lack of seasonal staff have made opening procedures difficult. On shower stall has been remodeled in the south toilet building.

## Overnight Lodging

Twin Lakes	Staff working on lodge flooring project and finishing of the mud room in lodge
McLain	There has been an uptick in lodging rental numbers. Springtime brings families of Michigan Tech students into the park for lodging opportunities. McLain's tiny house is in final stages of construction, with placement in the campground in the near future.
Little Presque Isle	All cabins were closed due to the high water and flooding of the county road from April 14th through April 18th. Cabin 6 at Little Presque Isle State Forest had new windows and a new door installed as the infrastructure is starting to show its age. The floor was planned to be refinished as well however, with the cold temperatures, this part of the project will be postponed.
Craig Lake	Overnight lodging is down 4 nights from 2021. The Keewaydin Lake Yurt was closed for 2 weeks in late April 2022 due to the woodstove being damaged.
Van Riper	The Peshekee River Rustic Cabin has been closed since the beginning of March at Van Riper State Park for upgrades. These upgrades include new windows and doors, new log siding, new cabinets and countertop, and the floor was professionally epoxied. A HUGE shout out to all those that helped from Van Riper and the Lake Gogebic Travelling Crew.
Fort Wilkins	Because of the good winter conditions, lodging was up during this time. We have also completed some remodeling work in both mini and camper cabins. Updated flooring, furniture, etc.
Porkies	Finalizing tiny house with plans for it to be open for rentals Memorial Day.

## Boating Access Sites and Harbors

Twin Lakes	Twin lakes SP BAS site had an increase in usage this past winter.
Escanaba FO	Sites in the Delta County area have opened, and maintenance has begun. Repairs due to winter use are required. Skid piers in Delta County have been installed, and the sites in the Gwinn area will be installed as soon as ice melt occurs.
Copper Harbor	Most sites are still snowed or iced in. We had many or all our piers in the water this time last year.
Fort Wilkins	Fishing pier adjacent to Fanny Hooe BAS is scheduled for inspection and repair work this spring.
Baraga FO	Refurbished Skid Piers

## Trails

Twin Lakes	The longer winter season with more and later snow, snowmobiles were on trail yesterday
McLain	With the snow melting the trails are messy and undesirable for users.
Little Presque Isle	PRD Trails Section was successful in receiving a MNRTF Grant to do substantial work on the existing trail system within the Little Presque Isle State Forest. Staff worked with DTMB, and a consultant has been brought on board to get started on design and scheduling for construction.
Baraga	Later and higher than normal snowfall kept the snowmobilers on the trails longer.
Copper Harbor	Again, the late winter is affecting use.

Fort Wilkins	Ski trails were well used.
Baraga FO	Assisted MDOT with fixing a washed-out culvert in Dollar Bay

### Day Use

McLain	On the warm days the parking lot is full, a lot of walkers returning to the park to walk the roads.
Twin Lakes	Field Office projects are progressing and with our Green Initiative we will be replacing our vintage lighting from when the building was constructed.
Baraga	. We opened the day use a week early as the public was already using the site.
Bond Falls	There have been many calls regarding the opening date of the site. However, there is still a significant amount of snow which would prohibit vehicular access and continuing snowfall would create safety hazards.
Fort Wilkins	Day use numbers were good in March but have slowed in April due to late snow cover.

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

McLain	Going to be bidding out our phase 3 (Water, roads, and cabin relocation) construction project and hopefully we will be starting construction this fall.
Escanaba FO	Staffing continues to be an issue, as it has been in past springs. David Gobert, a Ranger in Escanaba has retired after over 28 years of state service at multiple locations.
Fort Wilkins	The eastside water system improvements were let out to bid, with an award to B & B Contracting of Calumet.
Van Riper	Staff from Van Riper State Park attended the Job Fair at Northern Michigan University to recruit for vacant seasonal worker positions throughout the unit. The hiring process has taken a fair amount of time. The ski season wrapped up at Blueberry Ridge Ski Pathway on April 1st. Both grooming and communication this season was fantastic, and our visitors really appreciated the time and effort put into the trails.
Lake Gogebic	Katie Urban, park interpreter from the Porcupine Mountains, organized an ice fishing workshop at Lake Gogebic State Park on Saturday March 12. The event hosted about 30 participants.
Baraga	Ranger Lamar Mercer graduated from PRD Law Academy. Seasonal STW hiring has been an extreme challenge. Even with Division Office and District support with raising the pay rate to the top of the pay scale and park staff utilizing many different means of recruitment, Capitol Outlay design is still underway concerning the cement stairway structure at Bond Falls.
Porcupine Mountains	Nicole Pepin officially became the Porkies Park Supervisor. Katie Urban hosted a successful ice fishing clinic on Lake Gogebic. The new park concessionaire of Simple Adventures started on May first. Several Capitol Outlay projects are under design concerning the Union Bay sewer system, Visitor Center/Headquarters entry roads and parking lots, and construction has started on the fire barn structure in the old headquarters area. The Porcupine Mountains in partnership with the Lake Superior Sportsman's Club bid out the indoor shooting range construction project, which was award to Moyle Construction of Houghton.

Bewabic	Bewabic State Park ranger Connor Smith graduated from PRD law academy valedictorian! Boating ranger Bruce Borske attended the Midwest Truck Driving school for CDL training in April. Bewabic State Park is fully staffed with regards to rangers and STW's for the upcoming season! (Many STW's have not started yet and things can change). Several Capitol Outlay projects are in design for sewer, roads and new toilet buildings.
Menominee River	Park ranger Michael Behrndt graduated from the PRD Law Enforcement Academy!
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	<p>The \$250 million dollar supplemental was signed into Michigan Law by Governor Whitmer. The guiding principles of ARPA for the PRD is the following:</p> <p>Invest in (repair, replace, or modernize) the core infrastructure of the State Park &amp; State trail systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investments primarily targeted at existing State Parks, Recreation Areas, and non-motorized trail infrastructure</li> <li>• New State Park in Flint (\$37,800,000)</li> <li>• Prioritized to address: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Current and projected public health, safety, and welfare issues</li> <li>2. Aging or deteriorated critical infrastructure</li> <li>3. Current and projected regulatory or code compliance issues, including</li> <li>4. ADA accessibility deficiencies</li> <li>5. Infrastructure that is functionally obsolete</li> <li>6. Continue investments to complete previously phased projects</li> <li>7. Produces sustainable: infrastructure life cycle replacement models, operational effort, and energy conservation and consumption</li> <li>8. Create a project delivery model that can best meet the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding deadlines of December 31, 2024, and December 1, 2026</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>Project costs and timelines are estimates based on the most urgent needs in our statewide parks system. Our intent is to complete these important projects as planned. However, contractor availability and supply chain challenges may raise the final cost of individual projects and may result in delay, postponement, or reprioritization of some. This will be a very dynamic process, which is actively managed.</p> <p>Proposed investment targets for ARPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roads and parking areas – 31 projects totaling \$35,000,000.</li> <li>• Buildings – 47 projects totaling \$59,000,000. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Non-historic structures: 36 projects</li> <li>✓ Historic structures: 10 projects</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Utilities – 62 projects totaling \$55,000,000. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 16 electrical projects</li> <li>✓ 21 potable water projects</li> <li>✓ 25 sanitary sewer projects</li> <li>✓ 4 storm water projects</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dams - 11 projects totaling \$6,000,000.</li> <li>• Recreational Structures - 14 projects totaling \$5,000,000.</li> <li>• Misc. (Major development or operational structures) – 14 projects totaling \$22,000,000.</li> <li>• Trails – 8 project groupings totaling \$37,800,000.</li> </ul>

## **Fisheries Division: George Madison, Western Lake Superior Management Unit**

The following are the western Upper Peninsula fisheries division highlights for the period of March 22, 2022 through May 16, 2022, on behalf of the following Western UP Fisheries Division staff:

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

### **Western Lake Superior Management Unit (George Madison, Unit Biologist):**

Staff have begun the 2022 field work season which includes the following tasks:

- Under-the-ice netting surveys have been conducted on lakes to be considered for a No Minimum Size Limit on Northern Pike.
- While crews have been working on pike lakes, winter limnological profile surveys have been conducted to document late-winter dissolved oxygen levels for these waters.
- Splake fin clipping was conducted at the Marquette Hatchery for a batch of fish designated for stocking into Keweenaw Bay (Baraga Marina) and Copper Harbor.
- Steelhead and brook trout stocking has commenced at traditional UP stocking sites.
- Walleye egg take occurred during the last week of April at Little Bay de Noc. This was a later than normal egg take operation. The following are notes from the Thompson State Fish Hatchery biologist for the Little Bay de Noc walleye egg take for 2022:
  - Location of egg take = Rapid River Public Access site (PAS)
  - Hatchery staff = 5 people needed each day just for the hatchery staff side of things at Rapid River PAS (plus four or five field staff for boats, plus 4 or five for research jaw tagging)
  - Two egg take days. Friday, April 22 and Monday April 25
  - Obtained about a total of 13 million eggs from 114 females (this year, there was less eggs per female than our average and the eggs were also a little bigger in size)
  - Eggs hatch in around 29 days with fry ready to go to ponds a few days after that. Therefore, fry will be ready for ponds near Memorial Day Weekend. Specific day TBD
  - Primary goal is to produce enough fry for rearing ponds. The rest get stocked as fry.
  - Adult samples are driven to MSU for inspection to ensure the fish have no pathogens of concern that may have been passed to the eggs or for us to consider when using LBDN as a brood location
- Fisheries Division's UP Coffee and Conversations meetings were held during late March for areas of Saults Ste. Marie, Newberry, Munising, Escanaba, Marquette, Houghton, and Ironwood locations.
- Lake Sturgeon fry were collected from drift nets for rearing at the streamside rearing facilities at the Cedar River and Ontonagon River.
- Lake Gogebic and Ottawa Lake spring walleye population estimate surveys were conducted. Public discussion meetings are scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup> at the Marenisco Township Hall.
- New creel census clerk at Marquette, Jon Donahey. Jon is an avid angler and knows the local fishery, so he will be a good addition to our angler survey team.
- The Marquette Fisheries Research vessel "Lake Char" was set for duty on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be doing index netting off Marquette in early May and then heading to Isle Royale in later May. The research staff have documented spring spawning Lake Trout at Isle Royale during past visits, and the 2022 tour will use a remote operating underwater drone to take photographs of newly deposited eggs and to collect egg samples.

### **Northern Hatcheries Update (Dan Samson, Regional Hatchery Manager):**

- Staffing: Marquette: Process is almost complete for re-filling Jim Aho's manager position, after his retirement.
- Marquette State Fish Hatchery
  - Fish culture: Going well. All goals are being fully met.

- Nursery: All YOY Lake Trout, Brook Trout and Splake are growing well.
- Yearlings: stocking slightly delayed due to late spring conditions and 3200 issues. Splake marking is complete. Expected to be finished stocking near the end of May.
- Grayling: Have found a few mature fish, suggesting 2024 will be the first year for egg production. (They will need to be crossed with fish that are 2 years younger, in quarantine at Oden State Fish Hatchery.
- Maintenance:
  - Luckily, an employee escaped injury in an accident with the van. A tire came off a trailer on an opposing vehicle, clipping the van on the driver's side, at highway speeds, near rapid River. The van was totaled.
  - Capital Outlay: Equipment staging for the channel project will begin mid-May. Bypass is expected to start on June 1st with installation soon to follow. Substantial Completion will be August 17, 2022
  - Engineering Service Request is being submitted for modifying the brood isolation building for better biosecurity and efficiency.
- Thompson State Fish Hatchery
  - Fish culture: All goals are being met.
    - CHS: Mass Marking finished on 5/4/22. Fish look good!
    - WAE: eggs are incubating. Hatch goals are expected to be met. Pond filling began on 5/6/22.
    - Steelhead:
      - Stocking is going well but was slowed by a stocking truck issue. Size is about 7.7".
      - Eggs are incubating & looking good. Goals are expected to be met.
  - Maintenance:
    - Conversion to natural gas is complete.
    - Solar: Pre-bid meeting occurred in late April. This will be roof-mounted, on the raceway buildings, and is expected to offset 16% of the energy consumption for the main hatchery.
- Oden State Fish Hatchery
  - Fish Culture: All goals are being met.
    - Stocking going well for all groups. All goals will be met but will be slightly behind schedule due to the late spring conditions. Oden is stocking some larger than normal rainbows that are 7.5"-7.7" at stocking! This is due to techniques that allow spawning to happen much earlier in the year.
    - All young of the year brown trout and rainbow trout are doing well.
  - Maintenance:
    - Received a gift of \$10,000 by the Friends of Oden Hatchery to replace the wind-damaged gazebo. New gazebo will be slightly larger and placed slightly into the woods to the west of the flagpole.
    - Improvements will be happening with the Railcar, including adding a roof membrane and exterior painting.
    - Solar: Pre-bid meetings occurred in late-April for two large arrays. One for the main hatchery is expected to offset energy consumption by 16%. Another one, for the Isolation building and Stream Viewing Chamber is expected to offset about 75% of the energy consumption for that meter.
  - Electronics: Oden switch their alarming system (used to alert staff to emergencies) to an updates system called Opto Epic in late May. Thompson already has this system, and the other hatcheries are expected to get it by the end of the year. This will save a lot of money because it uses a controller instead of a personal computer, saving funds because we won't need to replace computers periodically and will also not have to pay for the operating systems on those computers.

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

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

- Little Carp Trestle deck reconstruction is complete with only minor site work remaining in spring. This is the final large project on the 11-mile section of DNR rail grade and will allow full use in 2022.
  - No updates since last meeting.
- UP15 Snowmobile trail has been closed the past two seasons due to the failure of a bridge in the Sturgeon River Sloughs Wildlife Area. The bridge design work is nearly complete and plans for construction in summer 2022 should

allow the trail to re-open in 22/23 snowmobile season. The project is being funded and managed by DNR Wildlife Division.

- The bridge site is on a USACE developed drainage area and therefore permitting is delayed while under review by the Army Corps of Engineers. A wetland delineation will be completed when vegetation is up.
- The Menominee River Trail Bridge near Iron Mountain will be undergoing abutment repairs this summer. This underwater work is the final phase of the project and will not impact trail use.
  - This project came in over budget. Work scope was reduced to just one pier and was rebid and awarded to MJO contracting. Work will be complete this summer.
- Other projects are awaiting award of some 2022 funding and are keyed up for summer bidding.
  - The Kenton Culvert site is now under contract with DP Construction and the trail was excavated to relieve water pressure. Work will continue once road restrictions are lifted. The SB ORV trail is closed from Kenton, MI east to the OC ORV trail until late July. See picture.



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

<b>Project Name:</b> ORV Route Grading Alger, Delta, Marquette, Menominee, and Dickinson Counties	<b>Project Name:</b> Sturgeon River Bridge	<b>Project Name:</b> Nahma Grade Multi-Use Trail	<b>Project Name:</b> Clowry Grade Bridges #2, #3 & #6
<b>Description:</b> Multiple projects for grading and smoothing ORV routes with multiple grades planned in high use areas to help prevent rough routes.	<b>Description:</b> Bridge rehab snowmobile trail 2 Dickinson County on State owned Rail-Trail.	<b>Description:</b> Design and construction 3.7 mile multi-use Rail-Trail in Delta County work includes clearing, surfacing and culvert/bridge installation.	<b>Description:</b> Design and rehab/construction of multiple bridges on this designated ORV/snowmobile multi-use Rail-Trail in Marquette County.
<b>Trail Use:</b> Rail Trails	<b>Trail Use:</b> Rail Trails	<b>Trail Use:</b> Rail Trails	<b>Trail Use:</b> Rail Trails
<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> Summer 2022	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> September 2022	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b>	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b>
<b>Q2 Update:</b> Finishing up work scopes and entering projects for advertising.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Advertising for construction this spring. Fish biologist would like to perform a mussel survey prior to doing any water work.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Project on hold awaiting funding. Design for two main water crossings is 100% the remainder of the grade clearing and minor culvert work is in the planning stages. Additional funding is necessary for both phases of the project.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Advertising for construction this spring.
<b>Project Name:</b> Clowry Grade Bridges #1, #4, #5 & #7	<b>Project Name:</b> Clowry ORV Improvements	<b>Project Name:</b> Little Presque Isle Rec Area Improvements	<b>Project Name:</b> Days River Single-Track Trail Construction
<b>Description:</b> Design and rehab/construction of multiple bridges on this designated ORV/snowmobile multi-use Rail-Trail in Marquette County.	<b>Description:</b> Filling several low areas and culvert replacement on the Clowry Grade ORV C & CL Routes.	<b>Description:</b> Trail repairs, parking improvements and boardwalk/bridge repairs throughout 42 sites at LPI recreation area and Wetmore pond.	<b>Description:</b> Approximately 10 miles of single-track trail construction designed for mountain bike use.

<b>Trail Use:</b> Rail Trails	<b>Trail Use:</b> Rail Trails	<b>Trail Use:</b> Nonmotorized & mountain bike	<b>Trail Use:</b> Nonmotorized & mountain bike
<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> 2025	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> 7/29/2022	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> 2023	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> 2023
<b>Q2 Update:</b> Scoping documents complete awaiting contract for engineering/design.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Completing work scope for minor construction project advertising this spring.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Entered work order for awarding engineering/design contract.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Scoping documents complete awaiting contract for engineering/design.
<b>Project Name:</b> Thunder Valley Trail Development	<b>Project Name:</b> Tyoga Pathway Bridges	<b>Project Name:</b> LPI Songbird Trail and Harlow Creek Bridges	<b>Project Name:</b> Genes Pond Pathway
<b>Description:</b> Complete construction on three additional loops and connector trail to Fairgrounds designed for equestrian use.	<b>Description:</b> Replace one bridge and replace or rehab second bridge both spanning the Laughing Whitefish River.	<b>Description:</b> Replace two popular pedestrian bridges on the LPI songbird trail and pathway to cabin #6 and north trail system.	<b>Description:</b> Construction of 1.75 mile accessible pathway with scenic overlooks adjacent to state forest campground.
<b>Trail Use:</b> Nonmotorized & EQ	<b>Trail Use:</b> Nonmotorized	<b>Trail Use:</b> Nonmotorized	<b>Trail Use:</b> Nonmotorized
<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> 7/29/2022	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> 2023-2024	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> 2023-2024	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> 2023-2024
<b>Q2 Update:</b> Readvertised last fall and awarded contract work will begin after spring break-up.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Scoping documents complete awaiting contract for engineering/design.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Scoping documents complete awaiting contract for engineering/design.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Scoping documents complete awaiting contract for engineering/design.
<b>Project Name:</b> Laughing Whitefish Falls Bridge	<b>Project Name:</b> Norway-Carney ORV/Snowmobile Connector Culverts	<b>Project Name:</b> Days River ORV Route Grading and Gravel	<b>Project Name:</b> Marquette County ORV Routes Improvements
<b>Description:</b> New pedestrian bridge construction on NCT over Laughing Whitefish River at the Laughing Whitefish Falls Natural Area.	<b>Description:</b> New ORV route/snowmobile trail development with several stream crossings requiring new culvert installation. New trail will connect the Norway ORV trail with Carney Lake Rd providing a east-west connection across Dickinson County.	<b>Description:</b> Replace culvert, grade, shape, and fill Days River ORV Route in Delta County	<b>Description:</b> Repair large holes replace culverts and surfacing on multiple ORV routes in western Marquette County
<b>Trail Use:</b> Nonmotorized	<b>Trail Use:</b> ORV/Snowmobile	<b>Trail Use:</b> ORV	<b>Trail Use:</b> ORV
<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> 2023-2024	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> Summer/fall 2022	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> 9/2022	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> 9/2022
<b>Q2 Update:</b> Scoping documents complete awaiting contract for engineering/design.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Work scope complete, EGLE permits out for public notice, Coleman Engineering is reviewing culvert designs.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Finalized work scope need to enter PR for summer construction but waiting on funding.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Working on work scope still waiting on funding for PR submittal.
<b>Project Name:</b> Forest Islands Repairs and Restoration	<b>Project Name:</b> Felch Grade Surface Improvements II	<b>Project Name:</b> Bass Lake Restoration	<b>Project Name:</b> Gwinn-Arnold Improvements and Restoration II
<b>Description:</b> Repair damaged board walks and damage in low wet areas on the Forest Islands ORV Trail/Route in Menominee and Delta Counties	<b>Description:</b> Gravel capping on the Felch Grade in Menominee and Dickinson Counties	<b>Description:</b> Perform reroutes around eroded areas.	<b>Description:</b> ORV G route Marquette County filling, gravel, and culvert work
<b>Trail Use:</b> ORV	<b>Trail Use:</b> ORV	<b>Trail Use:</b> ORV	<b>Trail Use:</b> ORV
<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> NA	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> 7/2022	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> 9/2022	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> 8/2022

<b>Q2 Update:</b> Received new funding coding and submitted revised work order.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Waiting on funding to enter PR.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Complete PR and work scope for summer minor construction project	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Complete PR and work scope for summer minor construction project
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<b>Project Name:</b> Delta-Menominee ORV Routes Improvements	<b>Project Name:</b> Central UP ORV Route Dust Control	<b>Proposal:</b> Hiawatha NF ORV Routes Proposal	<b>Proposal:</b> Norway Rock Motorcycle Trail Proposal	<b>Proposal:</b> Dickinson County Snowmobile Trail Reroutes
<b>Description:</b> Minor bridge railing and decking repairs replace culverts and surfacing work	<b>Description:</b> Perform dust control at multiple sites on ORV routes to prevent dust caused by ORV traffic in residential areas and other areas meeting criteria.	<b>Description:</b> Nearly 100 miles of ORV routes proposed to be designated that would provide connectivity and looped riding across Marquette, Delta, Alger and Schoolcraft Counties.	<b>Description:</b> New single track construction in Dickinson County adjacent to the Norway ORV trail	<b>Description:</b> Multiple reroutes to relocate trails to better areas and work with private landowners and the DCRC.
<b>Trail Use:</b> ORV	<b>Trail Use:</b> ORV	<b>Trail Use:</b> ORV	<b>Trail Use:</b> ORV	<b>Trail Use:</b> Snowmobile
<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> 9/2022	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> 6/2022	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> Awaiting USFS Approval	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b>	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> Completed 12/2021
<b>Q2 Update:</b> Complete PR and work scope for summer minor construction project waiting on funding.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Have added sites and submitted revised contract request.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Requesting status of USFS final review.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> WLD denied no further progress will occur without their support.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Most proposals have been approved.
<b>Proposal:</b> Moose Mountain Reroute Snowmobile Trail 8 Three Lakes	<b>Proposal:</b> Days River Nature Trail	<b>Proposal:</b> NCT/IBT Silver Lake Reroute	<b>Proposal:</b> Westwood Pathway	<b>Proposal:</b> Negaunee-Eagle Mills-Gwinn-Little Lake ORV Route
<b>Description:</b> Trail/bridge improvements and reroutes around difficult to groom areas. Logging operation on SCTC property to offset trail reroute costs.	<b>Description:</b> Designate and improve non-motorized pathway located along the Days River near Little Bay De Noc.	<b>Description:</b> Trail reroute to locate trail off of roads near Silver Lake proposal involves some State land for both trail development and parking.	<b>Description:</b> Designate and improve non-motorized pathway located on State owned property adjacent to Ishpeming DNR FO and Westwood High School.	<b>Description:</b> ORV Designate existing snowmobile trails that are already heavily used by ORVs. Designation will allow funding for maintenance and provide direction for community connectivity.
<b>Trail Use:</b> Snowmobile	<b>Trail Use:</b> Snowmobile	<b>Trail Use:</b> Non-motorized Pathway	<b>Trail Use:</b> Non-motorized Pathway	<b>Trail Use:</b> ORV
<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> 1/2022	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> Spring 2022	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> Summer 2022	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> Summer 2022	<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> Proposal submitted Summer/Fall 2022
<b>Q2 Update:</b> Reroute around moose mountain is about 90% complete need to finish work summer of 2022.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Proposal has been entered going through review.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Proposal has been entered going through review.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Proposal has been entered going through review.	<b>Q2 Update:</b> Began discussions with Cliffs on new trail development. Working with the club on securing permits from landowners.

<b>Proposal:</b> Little Lake-Chatham RR Grade ORV Route
<b>Description:</b> ORV Designate segments of existing RR grade and county roads to provide ORV connectivity between Chatham and Little Lake and beyond.
<b>Trail Use:</b> ORV
<b>Anticipated Completion:</b> Proposal submitted Summer/Fall 2022
<b>Q2 Update:</b> Will be contacting landowners and developing options to review for the proposal.

## **Wildlife Division: Brian Roell, Biologist-Marquette**

- **Wolf Management Plan Update:** May 16 and 17<sup>th</sup> will be the last meeting of the Wolf Advisory Council. After this meeting the Department will be preparing a summary report of recommendations as well as a minority report. These nonbinding recommendations will be submitted to the NRC and the legislature. The Wolf White Paper is nearing completion, Tribal input has been requested and we are planning on having a draft of the Wolf Management Plan available for public comment this summer.
  
- **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI):** Is a serious disease and requires rapid response because it is highly contagious and often fatal to domestic poultry and wildfowl. The DNR is working closely with MDARD, APHIS and industry partners to quickly mobilize a response to any HPAI findings. As of 5/6/22 the DNR has identified HPAI in 70 different wild birds, most of which are waterfowl (ducks and geese) and raptors (hawks, owls and eagles). In the U.P. HPAI has been identified in a Canada goose in Schoolcraft County and 3 domestic flocks of chickens in Menominee County.
  
- **Spring Wildlife Surveys:** During May wildlife surveys are conducted across the UP for several species such as deer, ruffed grouse, American woodcock, and sharp-tailed grouse. These surveys provide an index of wildlife populations to be used to compare populations from year to year. Wildlife division staff and partner agencies conduct the surveys annually between pre-determined dates and at established times and locations to maintain consistency in survey protocol. An annual spring wildlife survey report is prepared following the conclusion of each survey season to share data across the UP and with interested public.
  
- **Net River Dam:** The Net River Wildlife flooding a 400-acre impoundment experienced a partial dam failure incident on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the quick work by Baraga Wildlife staff, we were able to mobilize resources and bring together staff from PRD, LED, FRD, EGLE, emergency services, and a local contractor. This quick coordinate response allowed staff to stabilize the dam within 12 hours and avoid damage to camps or downstream roads and bridges. Currently, we are continuing to actively monitor the dam and on May 6<sup>th</sup>, we began to remove the stop logs to de-water the impoundment to further reduce the risk. The water control structure will be fully evaluated this summer.
  
- **UP Vacant Position Update**
  - UP Regional Supervisor Position: Interviews were recently completed and notifications for filling the position should be occurring very soon.
  - Escanaba Biologist Position: A request of applications was recently posted, and this position should be filled by mid-summer.
  - Crystal Falls Biologist Position: We are expecting to request applications late this summer and plan to fill the position by fall.
  - Sault Ste. Marie Wildlife Technician: This position is on hold at this time.