



Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: May 2023 (Information current as of 5/10/2023)

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

Meetings/Events/Press Releases

DNR Public Meetings – Future Dates

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

May 16	Forest Resources Division-Baraga Management Unit, Public Comment Period Ends/Open House (906-201-4688)
May 17	Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, 6pm ET, Iron Mountain, 906-226-1331
May 17	Equine Trails Subcommittee, 1pm, 517-331-6219
May 18	Board of Foresters, 9am, 989-370-9557
May 19	Michigan Wildlife Council, 10:30am, 517-284-6056
May 19	Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council, 8:30am, 517-582-3220
May 23	Virtual Informational Meeting for Keweenaw Land Assn Limited Direct Lease Application, 1:30pm, May 23 Virtual Informational Meeting
June 6	Forest Resources Division-Baraga Management Unit, Compartment Review (906-201-4688)
June 8	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, 9am, Roscommon, 517-331-7792
June 13	Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, 6pm, Sault Ste. Marie, 906-226-1331
July 9	Forest Resources Division-Escanaba Management Unit, Public Comment Period Begins (906-789-8231)
July 10	Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, 6pm, Baraga, 906-226-1331

U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities

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

March-April	No UP State Park Activities—Check Back in May!
June 10	DNR Pocket Park—30 th Annual Kids Fishing Day in Escanaba
June 10-11	Free ORV Weekend / Free Fishing Weekend
June 17	Fayette Historic State Park—Christmas in June
June 17	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park—Keweenaw Disc Golf Tour
July 19	Straits State Park—National Wild Turkey Federation BB Gun Shoot
July 20	Palms Book State Park—National Wild Turkey Federation BB Gun Shoot
July 21-22	Wells State Park—Christmas in July
July 21	Palms Book State Park—National Wild Turkey Federation BB Gun Shoot
July 27-29	DNR Pocket Park—National Trappers Convention-UP State Fairgrounds in Escanaba
August 14-21	DNR Pocket Park—UP State Fair in Escanaba – CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING!

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- Fishing Lake Superior? DNR asks anglers to report marked splake (5/10/23)
- May 23 public meeting regarding metallic mineral lease application (5/9/23)
- DNR News: Great Lakes Proud, wildlife moms, state parks plan (5/8/23)
- Are they out of the woods yet? The 2023 spongy moth forecast (5/8/23)
- Over \$1.7 million in grants will benefit fish, aquatic systems statewide (5/5/23)
- Natural Resources Commission meets May 11 in Lansing; agenda online (5/4/23)
- DNR News: Spark Grants, White Pine Trail, Academy of Natural Resources and more (5/3/23)
- Michigan's threatened and endangered species list updated (5/1/23)
- DNR announces \$100,000 awarded in Upper Peninsula Deer Habitat Improvement grants (5/1/23)
- Two elk or bear tags in one year? (5/1/23)
- DNR to offer bird migration forum at Michigan Tech (5/1/23)
- Share your thoughts with the DNR at upcoming meetings (4/28/23)
- DNR rejects proposed Camp Grayling lease expansion (4/28/23)
- Ready for trout season? Don't forget invasive species prevention! (4/25/23)

Grant Contacts

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

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

April NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

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

- The Commission approved [regulations for the 2023-2024 hunting seasons for migratory birds](#). The department is recommending minor changes to teal season dates to eliminate overlapping seasons.
- The Commission tabled until next month action on [new regulations governing the use of dogs to track wounded big game](#) such as elk, deer and bear.
- Acting Director Shannon Lott approved [a May 2 oil and gas lease auction](#) that would offer 77,000 acres of state managed public land for lease in 15 northern Lower Peninsula counties.

Wildlife Committee

Chad Stewart of the Wildlife Division gave [an overview of deer regulations](#). The Commission will take up discussion of these regulations for 2023 beginning next month. Chad first reviewed the history of the Nov. 15 opening day for firearm deer season, which has been in place since 1925 with the exception of a few years in the 1960s. Deer harvest, hunter participation, and hunter success are all fairly consistent, Chad said, regardless of the day of the week on which Nov. 15 happens to fall. The number of days hunted by individual hunters increases slightly if opening day occurs later in the week. Hunters strongly support a Nov. 15 opener, according to surveys the department conducted in 2009 and 2016. Based on this and data from other states that have changed their opening day, Chad concluded there is no evidence that moving the Nov. 15 opening day or changing the number of weekend dates available will increase harvest, increase participation or retain hunters. In addition, the department plans to revisit the question of banning baiting and feeding in a portion of the U.P., as well as other U.P. specific regulations. The department will also review antler point restriction regulations and allowing the harvest of only one deer during the Liberty Hunt, also known as the youth season. The

department is considering recommending allowing the harvest of one antlered deer and one antlerless deer during the Liberty Hunt. The department is considering small changes to harvest reporting requirements and making minor changes to language in the Wildlife Conservation Order related to deer damage permits and permits on North Manitou Island.

Amy Derosier of the Executive Division and Melinda Cosgrove from the Wildlife Division gave [an update on surveillance for chronic wasting disease in the deer population](#). The department continues to sample deer in distinct regions of the state through our rotational sampling approach. This next year, the DNR will be focusing sampling efforts in the northwest part of the state. We have not found CWD in this area, but our goal is to better understand the distribution of the disease. To do this, we need to sample across the state. This approach is focused on early detection. In areas where we are not actively sampling, we will continue to have multiple options for hunter self-submissions. The DNR is partnering with Michigan State University and University of Wisconsin diagnostic laboratories to allow hunters to have their deer tested for a fee. Beginning last year, we provided free testing kits to hunters who wanted their deer tested in counties where CWD had previously been detected. That free testing program will continue in 2023. The DNR will continue to use the data we collect and new research and models to support our surveillance and management and will periodically re-evaluate our efforts as new information becomes available.

Committee of the Whole, Director's Report

The Commission honored former commissioner and former DNR Director Keith Creagh for his service on the commission. Commissioner Creagh was appointed to the board in October 2018 and served through December 2022. During his time as commissioner and DNR director, he worked on the initial delisting of wolves, the creation of the Iron Bell Trail, a variety of Great Lakes issues, strengthening preparations for invasive carp response, and expanding active forest management.

Dustin Isenhoff from the Wildlife Division introduced [this year's winners of the Pure Michigan Hunt](#).

Erik Eklund, chief of our Finance and Operations Division, told the commission [about the governor's recommendations for the DNR budget](#) for Fiscal Year 2024, which begins Oct. 1, 2023.

Fisheries Division Chief Randy Claramunt [detailed the Fisheries Division Strategic Plan for 2023-2029](#).

Cody Norton of the Wildlife Division told the commission about proposed changes to nuisance regulations for furbearers and small game. The department is proposing changes to sections of these regulations that deal with wildlife damage control permits on private property, as well as removal of beaver and beaver dams by road, drain and railroad authorities. Details of these proposed regulations can be found in [Cody's presentation](#). The regulations will be before Director Lott for action next month.

Brian Frawley presented the [preliminary deer harvest survey results for 2022](#). The mailed survey showed that 515,135 hunters were in the field across all deer seasons, 4% fewer than the previous year. The number of 2022 license buyers (586,323) decreased by only 1% year to year. The total number of deer harvested – 331,240 in 2022 – decreased by 16% compared to 2021. This is the first year this traditional mailed harvest survey has been accompanied by electronic mandatory harvest reporting during the season. The report of deer harvested through electronic reporting was 11% less than the harvest estimate through the mailed survey. This was a better outcome than a number of other states Brian surveyed, where the difference between immediate harvest reports and later estimates averaged 52%. Sixty five percent of hunters said the harvest reporting app was easy to use, compared to 17% who said it was hard to use.

Megan Moriarty and Emily Sewell from the Wildlife Division, together with Mike VandeKlok of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, gave [a presentation on bovine tuberculosis monitoring in deer and cattle](#). Since 1975, the state has tested nearly 350,000 deer in an 11-county area in the northeast Lower Peninsula, with 995 of those deer testing positive for TB. In 2022, our surveillance found 28 deer with the disease. Four of these 2022 positive deer were found outside a five county area of most intensive surveillance for DNR and MDARD, composed of Presque Isle, Montmorency, Alpena, Oscoda and Alcona counties. The group talked about new methods to prevent the spread of tuberculosis between deer and cattle, along with continued cooperation between DNR and MDARD to address the disease.

[A report on legislation affecting the department](#) was provided to the commission (see below).



Natural Resources Commission

Meeting Agenda

Date: May 11, 2023
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Lansing Community College
West Campus Rooms M119-121
5708 Cornerstone Drive
Lansing, Michigan 48917

Committee Agendas – 9:30 a.m.

- I. Fisheries Committee
 - a. [Inland Walleye Management Plan](#) (Dr. Seth Herbst, Fisheries Division)
- II. Wildlife Committee
 - a. [Sportsmen Against Hunger](#) (Joe Presgrove, Marketing and Outreach Division & Dean Hall, Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger)
 - b. Deer Regulations (Matthew Ross, National Deer Association Director of Conservation)
 - c. [Agent-Based Modeling](#) (Mauri Liberati, Wildlife Division)
 - d. [APR Study Report](#) (Dr. Dwayne Etter, Wildlife Division)

BREAK FOR LUNCH 11:30-12:30 p.m.

Committee of the Whole Agenda – 12:30 p.m.

- I. Call to Order – Interim Chair Carol Rose
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - a. [April 13, 2023](#)
- V. Director's Report

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- a. [Deer Regulations](#) (Chad Stewart, Wildlife Division)
 - b. [Legislative Report](#) (Informational Item)
- VI. Public Comment – [NRC Public Appearance Guidelines](#)
- a. 5 Minute Comment
 - i. Molly Tamulevich, Human Society of the United States – Nuisance Regulations
 - ii. Nichole Biber, Anishinaabek Caucus – Nuisance Regulations
 - iii. Moses Biber, Anishinaabek Caucus – Nuisance Regulations
 - iv. Diane Miller – Nuisance Regulations
 - v. Brece Clark – Nuisance Regulations
 - vi. Bee Friedlander, Attorneys for Animals – Nuisance Regulations
 - vii. Trish Marie – Nuisance Regulations
 - viii. Mark Spencer, Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association – Nuisance Regulations
 - ix. Erik Schnelle, National Deer Association – Big Challenges – Bold, Informed Action
 - x. Jim Sweeney – Deer Regulations
 - xi. Mel Smith, Let Em Go, Let Em Grow – Deer Regulations
 - b. 3 Minute Comment
 - i. Greg Peter – APRs
- VII. New Business
- a. Director Matters – None
 - b. Land Transactions
 - i. [Acquisition of State Land](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Schoolcraft County](#)
[The Manistique Papers, Inc. Tract](#)
[Land Transaction Case# 20160001](#)
 - ii. [Acquisition of State Land](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Emmet County](#)
[The Perkins Tract](#)
[Land Transaction Case#20220213](#)
 - iii. [Acquisition of State Land](#)
[Wildlife Division, St. Clair County](#)
[The Hemlock Ridge LLC Tract](#)
[Land Transaction Case#20220206](#)

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- iv. [Acquisition of State Land](#)
[Wildlife Division, Gratiot County](#)
[The Recker Tract](#)
[Land Transaction Case#20220221](#)
 - v. [Acquisition of State Land](#)
[Wildlife Division, Saginaw County](#)
[The Maier Tract](#)
[Land Transaction Case#20220223](#)
 - vi. [Acquisition of State Land](#)
[Parks and Recreation Division, Emmet County](#)
[The Pillsbosian Tract](#)
[Land Transaction Case#20220242](#)
 - vii. [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Mackinac County](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20220066](#)
 - viii. [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Wexford County](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20220199](#)
 - ix. [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land](#)
[Parks and Recreation Division, Manistee County](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20200155](#)
 - x. [Gift of Easement – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
[Wildlife Division, Saginaw County](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20230053](#)
- c. NRC/Director Orders
- i. [Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 7 of 2023](#)
[Deer Regulations](#)
- VIII. Old Business
- a. Director Matters
 - i. [Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 6 of 2023](#)
[Wildlife Nuisance Regulations](#)
 - b. NRC/Director Orders
 - i. [Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2023](#)
[Tracking Legally Shot Game Animals](#)
- IX. Committee Reports

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- X. Commissioner Reports
- XI. Adjournment

Meeting notes

Signed copies of these recommended amendments, orders, and transactions may be requested through the NRC assistant by calling 517-331-7792 or emailing nrc@michigan.gov.

If you are 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, Michigan 48909, or email: nrc@michigan.gov. If you would like further information or would like to address the Commission, please contact the NRC Assistant at 517-331-7792 or email: nrc@michigan.gov. Persons registering to provide comments on a topic listed on the agenda on or before the Friday preceding the meeting will be allowed up to five (5) minutes for their comments. Persons registering to comment on a topic not listed on the agenda, after the Friday preceding the meeting, or at the meeting will be allowed up to three (3) minutes. Look for this agenda and other Natural Resources Commission items at Natural Resources Commission webpage: Michigan.gov/NRC.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the NRC Assistant at 517-331-7792 or nrc@michigan.gov.

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

- The bill has passed the Senate, and has been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

SB 59 – Modify Definition of a Peace Officer in the Mental Health Code – Sen. Cherry: This bill would amend the Mental Health Code, Act 258 of 1974, to modify the definition of a peace officer by adding an officer or agency who is licensed under the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES), Act 203 of 1965. The changes to this bill would allow an expansion of officers, including Conservation Officers, able to engage with a person requiring treatment under the Mental Health Code.

- The bill was reported with recommendation from the Senate Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary and Public Safety and is awaiting a vote on the Senate floor.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HB 4155 – Modify Penalties for Certain Deer Hunting Violations – Rep. Beson: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to modify the following deer hunting violations to a civil infraction with a fine of not more than \$100.00; baiting of deer or the taking of deer over bait; or the reporting of a deer harvest or the retention of a deer harvest confirmation number.

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

HB 4159 – Designate Official State Butterfly - Rep. Brixie: This bill would designate the black swallowtail butterfly as the official butterfly of the state of Michigan.

- The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

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

Eastern UPCAC Update

The **Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council** met in Newberry on April 26. It was the first meeting for four new members. Division reports were reviewed and highlighted by members as a valuable tool to share with groups and connections. The reports were also shared with UP legislators, NRC commissioners (at their request) and various sporting groups. Meeting topics of discussion and updates provided included the a wolf management update citing NRC Chair Baird's comments from the February NRC meeting, a cormorant funding and control update from Fisheries Chief Randy Claramunt, Fisheries proposed 2024 regulations affecting the Upper Peninsula by Fisheries Biologist Neal Godby, a snowmobile season summary, a brief review of the deer regulations presentation shown at the April NRC meeting and passing of a cormorant funding and control resolution. The EUPCAC will meet next on June 13 in Sault Ste. Marie.

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

Fisheries Division: Darren Kramer, Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit

On behalf of the UP Fisheries Division staff, the Western Upper Peninsula Fisheries Division highlights for the period of March 20, 2023 through May 16, 2023, is provided below.

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

Management Unit Update

- Current events: March and April is the time of year staff prepare for spring field work and inland lakes began to open up during the last week of April. With the arrival of spring there has been a lot of angler interest in the upcoming trout and walleye seasons, with also many questions about steelhead and smelt runs.
- Meetings: The following Fisheries topics meetings were held during the past two months:
 - The Lake Superior Management Unit had the annual springtime Conversations and Coffee meeting on March 29th, which presented topics such as summer 2023 fisheries surveys, fish stocking plans, and trends in sportfish catch rates. Angling effort was significantly lower in 2022 as compared to past years, and it might have been the May/June 2022 \$5.00/gallon gas prices that deterred people from taking extensive fishing trips.
 - The Lake Superior Fishery Advisory Committee meeting was held on April 11th, which also covered trends in the Lake Superior sport fishery and fish stocking plans.
- Field Season:
 - Staff completed the 2023 splake fin clipping program with finishing off the fin clipping for the Copper Harbor splake. All splake for Munising, Keweenaw Bay, and Copper Harbor have a unique fin clip for each port. We remind anglers to report any fin clips they observe on steelhead and splake, whereby they can report clips on the Michigan DNR website, or they can call any DNR office.
 - Hosted contractor pre-bid site review meetings for two upcoming fisheries projects in Ontonagon.
 - Observed rainbow smelt runs in Keweenaw Bay streams on April 26 and 27. Coho catches in Keweenaw Bay have been good this spring, along with moderate catches of steelhead.
 - The lake sturgeon streamside rearing facility at the Cedar River boat access site (Menominee County) was prepped in late April to receive lake sturgeon fry in early- to mid-May.
 - Operations at the lake sturgeon lift at the Menominee Dam at the Menominee River began on April 25th. Catch of lake sturgeon during the first week of operations was slow due to cold river temperatures and high discharge of water through the dam.
 - Staff have scheduled walleye population estimate surveys on Lac Vieux Desert (partnering with WDNR staff) Gogebic County, Lake Emily (Iron County), and Lake Ottawa (Iron County).

Research Section Update

- Jaw-tagged nearly 600 walleyes in concert with egg take activities at Little Bay de Noc.
- Submitted a final report entitled “Behavioral responses of spawning-phase walleyes to river and conspecific odors” for a study of water choice preferences of spawning-phase walleyes from the Ford River. We ran the experiments at USGS’s Hammond Bay Biological Station and partial funding was provided by Bays de Noc Great Lakes Sportfishermen and Wildlife Unlimited of Delta County.
- Developed a poster entitled “Identifying Coasters: Stable isotopes provide evidence of lake to stream movements by individual Brook Trout” for a study that demonstrated the feasibility of using stable isotope signatures as a relatively simple, non-lethal technique for documenting Lake Superior to stream movements (indicative of a coaster life

history) by brook trout. We are drafting a manuscript for publication based on this work. This work was partially funded by the Dead River Mitigation Fund.

- Evaluating simple, flow-through egg incubation chambers for Arctic grayling reintroductions, using rainbow trout as a surrogate species. Evaluations in the hatchery may involve small numbers of Arctic grayling eggs if available. This work is largely supported by the Henry E. and Consuelo S. Wenger Foundation and the Consumers Energy Foundation.
- Published a paper describing publicly available tools describing trends in trout and smallmouth bass populations around Michigan and for managing stream fish populations and habitats throughout the state. The paper can be accessed for free at <http://doi.org/10.1002/fsh.10890> and the tools are online.

Fish Production Section Update

- Marquette State Fish Hatchery
 - Cherry Creek Stabilization project resumes in May. It has been functioning as designed since last autumn but needs some additional work to ensure longevity of the cement and to better protect the area from erosion. This project should be wrapped up by mid-June.
 - Stocking has gone well and should be finished in early June.
 - All YOY lake trout, brook trout, and splake are in the nursery and doing well.
 - Arctic Grayling: Hatchery staff have spawned eggs from the oldest group of fish. Their offspring will not be stocked because they have been crossed within a group that may have siblings, so the eggs will be used purely for practice hatchery incubation & early rearing techniques plus research of instream incubation prototypes.
- Thompson State Fish Hatchery
 - Walleye: 18.29 million eggs were spawned by Fisheries Division staff on two dates in mid-April, from 103 pairs of adults. Eggs are being incubated at Thompson State Fish Hatchery and are doing well.
 - Steelhead:
 - Spawning for Thompson State Fish Hatchery occurred at the Little Manistee Weir in mid-April, with Fisheries Division staff spawning 354 pairs, giving the hatchery 2.1 million eggs for incubation. Eggs are developing well in incubation and the fertility rates are around 70%, which is normal.
 - Stocking of yearlings will be complete by the end of May, weather permitting.
 - Chinook salmon: Mass marking began the last week of April. Stocking will occur in mid-May.
 - Solar Power: It was determined that if panels were roof mounted to the production raceway buildings, the roof would have to be replaced, switching to standing seam roofs. This proved to be too expensive, so instead, the panels will be ground mounted, just south of the entrance lane. Installation is expected to begin in June. The system is expected to produce 168,800 kWh per year and offset the hatchery's electricity consumption by 16%, saving about \$13,000 per year. The expected lifespan of the solar panels is 25 years.

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

- **CO Brian Lasanen** received a call of an injured bald eagle down the road from his residence. CO Lasanen responded to the residence and was able to capture the bald eagle and transport it to a local rehabilitation facility.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** assisted Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission wardens teach a hunter safety course at the Ontonagon School. The students were very interactive as they learned about laws, ethics, safe hunting practices, etc.
- **CO Shannon Wicklund** taught boater's safety to students in Menominee County. Members of the of the Marinette Menominee US Power Squadron assisted CO Wicklund with teaching the course by providing decades of boating knowledge and experience to the students. Students passed the class with knowledge of operating boats safely on both state and federal waters.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** received a complaint of shots heard well after shooting hours on the opening weekend of spring turkey season. The CO responded to the area and contacted three juvenile hunters who were leaving from a chunk of state land in Iron County. They also had a dead tom turkey in their possession that was not tagged. One of the hunters admitted he shot it shortly before the CO contacted them and the exact time was determined by the hunter's statements and photographs. The bird was shot a half hour after legal shooting hours and the young

hunters explained they did not know shooting hours for spring turkey season ended one half hour before sunset. This was the hunter's second turkey ever harvested and he explained he did not know the laws as well as he should have. CO VanWagner explained to the hunter that he was not going to petition him to court due to the honesty and full cooperation from the group, although the turkey would be seized as it was shot illegally. CO VanWagner addressed the violations, educated the group on various hunting laws, and answered questions that they had. The turkey was donated to a local family in need.

- **CO Alex VanWagner** observed a side-by-side operating in Iron River with an expired registration sticker. The ORV was stopped, and a citation was issued for failing to register the UTV.
- **COs Phil Helminen and Jared Ferguson** taught at a hunter safety field day at the Sagola Sportsman's Club in Dickinson County. The COs instructed on the duties of conservation officers and hunting laws.
- **COs Phil Helminen and Jared Ferguson** were heading home at the end of their shift after checking turkey hunters when they observed a vehicle rapidly approaching from behind them. The vehicle then passed the COs traveling well over the speed limit. The COs conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and the driver stated that they were running late and did not realize that the DNR could pull them over. The driver was issued a speeding citation.
- **CO John Kamps and PCO Steve Sajtar** received a complaint about a beaver that was shot with a firearm. The COs went to the suspect's residence where they located the beaver and conducted multiple interviews. After numerous denials, a confession was finally obtained by the primary suspect. It was determined that the person who shot the beaver was a felon and not allowed to possess a firearm. Charges will be filled with the Marquette County Prosecutor's Office.
- On the opening day of spring turkey season, **COs John Kamps, Jackson Kelly, and PCO Steve Sajtar** watched an individual take an uncased firearm out of a motor vehicle and begin stalking through the woods towards a turkey. The individual, who stated he was turkey hunting, failed to have a turkey license in his possession. A citation was issued.
- **CO John Kamps, Cpl. Mike Hammill, and PCO Steve Sajtar** responded to a complaint of a cub bear that was stuck in a trap. The sow and an additional cub were close by the cub that was crying for help. The COs located the crying bear and determined the bear not to be stuck in a trap, but to have his paw stuck in the tree. The front paw was wedged tightly between two branches. Cpl. Hammill climbed up the tree and was able to cut the branch below the foot and free the cub. The cub bear was reunited with its family.

Wildlife Division: Dave Lemmien, UP Wildlife Supervisor

(Submitted by Tiffany Bougie, Wildlife Biologist & Ryan McGillviray, Wildlife Technician)

General Wildlife Reminders

- Keep wildlife wild! If you come across a young animal that appears to be abandoned, the best thing you can do for it is to leave it alone. Many animals will hide their young to keep them safe and will eventually return. Remember, unless you are licensed, it is illegal to possess a live wild animal in Michigan.
- Bears are on the move and looking for an easy meal. To avoid bear problems, take down bird feeders and remove or secure any other items that could attract bear such as garbage bags (even if they do not contain food waste) and pet food. Make sure to keep grills clean and unavailable. Encourage neighbors to do the same. Most bear complaints are resolved by removing food sources before bears show up in the spring.
- The spring turkey season is April 22 – May 31 in Unit M (the UP), except for hunters with a Hunt 0234 license which may be used May 6 – May 31.
- All furbearer registrations are closed for the 2022 season. Throughout the winter and early spring, staff have registered furbearers by appointment or during office hours at locations open to the public. The registration process allows information about each species to be obtained to help monitor and manage the populations.

Surveys

- During the winter, staff performed the moose aerial population survey conducted over the primary moose range in the western UP. Results from this year's survey can be expected later this spring.
- The American woodcock singing-ground survey began in the UP on April 25 in southern areas and May 1 in the north and runs until May 20. The woodcock survey helps track long-term, landscape scale trends of woodcock populations and also provides a non-harvest index of population trends.
- The ruffed grouse drumming survey window, which began on April 20, is extended by 1 week due to recent extreme weather and will now finish on May 17 instead of May 10. Grouse drumming surveys can provide an index of long-term trends in grouse populations as well as monitor the grouse "cycle".
- Snow is receding, but conditions are above the long-term average of 81 days with greater than 12" of snow (since 2004). The 2022-23 winter has had average snow depth greater than 12" for more than 100 days across the UP, suggesting that this can be considered a severe winter and may impact overwinter deer survival. Snow depths are assessed throughout the winter using results available through NOAA.

Projects

- Staff are preparing for upcoming field work including maintaining hunter walking trails, seeding plots, planting mast producing trees and shrubs for wildlife, maintaining dam and other infrastructure and recreational access to sites, road/parking lot improvements, and state forest compartment planning.
- On May 31 staff will be hosting a field day for 4th grade students attending Kingsford Elementary School. Students will rotate through stations and have the opportunity to learn about Michigan's wildlife and what we do as Michigan DNR employees.

Additional

- The Crystal Falls Field Office has hired a permanent wildlife biologist, Tiffany Bougie.
- Seasonal wildlife assistants will soon be coming on staff at each office apart from Crystal Falls to assist with nuisance wildlife calls, surveys, habitat management projects, and maintenance activities.

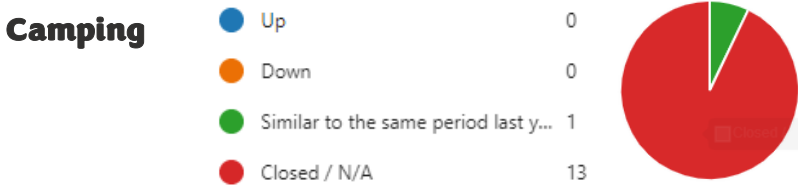
Forest Resources Division: Tom Seablom, Western UP District Supervisor

- Field work for the 2025 YOE Inventory season started in October. The next WUP Open house will be for the Baraga unit on May 16th, 2023. Open House and Compartment Review schedules for the 2025 YOE are posted online under the Public Input section along with other State Forest inventory information at: Michigan.Gov/Forestry.
- As of May 8th, 316 timber sale contracts are open WUP Wide. This represents 943,197 cords of timber on 52,223 acres, valued at approximately \$36.3 million. Included in this are 25 GNA sales representing 98,083 cords of timber on 5,468 acres, valued at approximately \$3.5 million. As of May 8th, 11 sales are available WUP Wide for the minimum advertised price. This represents 15,546 cords of timber. Find more information on State Forest timber sales at: Michigan.Gov/Timber.
- WUP Units are reporting 5 Active Timber Sales in the WUP totaling about 100 acres. Units report poor demand for timber sale offerings. Producers have reported reduced quotas from area mills.
- The Crystal Falls Forest Management Unit (FMU), composed of approximately 311,000 acres, has existed in its current structure since the merger of Crystal Falls and Norway Forest Area, circa 1997/98 in Iron and Dickinson Counties. As a result of recruiting and retention challenges, it has been decided to dissolve the Crystal Falls FMU and merge it with the Baraga and Escanaba FMUs. The split will result in the staff and lands in Iron County becoming part

of the Baraga FMU and the staff and lands in Dickinson County becoming part of the Escanaba FMU. In addition, a Forest Fire Officer will be added to the staffing structure at the Felch Field Office.

- This transition will take place over the next several months as we finish out the inventory and timber sale prep cycle.
- With the retirement of Kristen Matson-Gwinn Unit Manager, Scott Kenter will be filling the role in a working out of class opportunity. Scott is a forester on the Shingleton FMU. He will begin this role on May 14 and will act in this role for the next two months.
- WUP cultivation work will be starting in May depending on the weather. Approximately 900 acres will be planted this spring. 500 acres are scheduled to be prepared for planting in the future, usually by trenching. An additional 500 acres will be treated to encourage natural regeneration.
- Open enrollment for the Commercial Forest Program ended April 1st. Commercial Forest staff is working on preparing for spring-summer inspections of over 5,000 acres of new enrollment applications statewide. For more information on the Commercial Forest Program go to Michigan.Gov/Commercialforest.
- The new State Forest Management Plan is in the process of being written. There will be a Stakeholder review meet on May 31st in Marquette at the Marquette Township Hall. Invitations were sent to CAC Members. An additional meeting will be held on June 1st at the Ralph A. MacMullen Center in Roscommon.

Parks & Recreation Division: Doug Rich, WUP District Supervisor

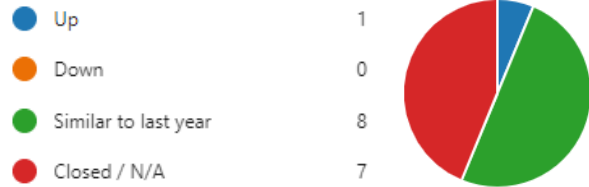


Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew	The Lake Gogebic Crew made improvements to Baraga State Park's south shower building.
McLain SP	McLain campground opening will be delayed this spring due to wrapping up construction projects, hoping to be open by Memorial Day
Baraga SP	Lake Gogebic traveling crew did some work finishing an ADA shower remodel in the South Toilet Building. Park staff was busy reconfiguring office space. With the arrival of a new leased copier, staff is utilizing the owned printer/copier and DTMB installed an additional network drop so the two rangers now have a larger, more efficient workspace in the shop.
All West U.P. District State Parks	Scheduled to open May 15th!

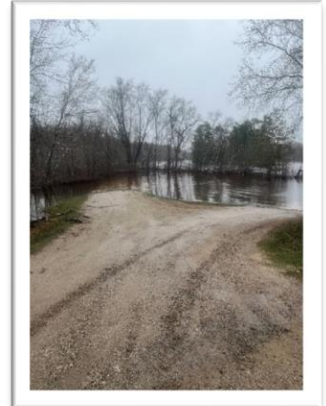
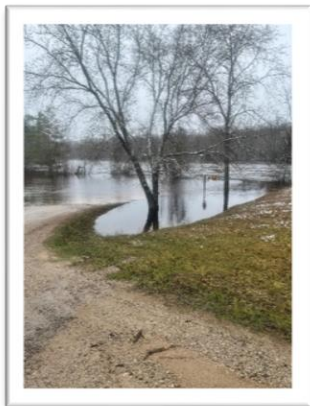


Van Riper SP	Overnight lodging is up from this timeframe last year. The Peshekee River Rustic Cabin, within Van Riper State Park was closed due to renovations, causing lower use numbers last year.
McLain SP	Lodging at McLain is closed through September currently due to construction, hoping to have them back open early summer, just waiting on weather to change and establish grass on the sites and various cleanup of the area.

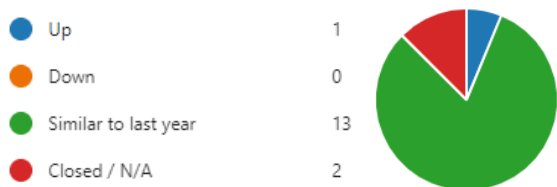
Boating Access Sites and Harbors



Twin Lakes SP	More ice fishermen at the park this winter as Keweenaw Bay without much ice this winter.
Escanaba FO	Spring break up is well on its way within the Escanaba Field Office locations. Delta County sites are all accessible, and skid piers are in.
Cedar River Harbor	Fuel floating dock construction/fix at the harbor is in the last phase of completion. expected completion is May 15th
Wells SP	Flooding at Koss landing closed the site down for a week from the latest storm. (Pictures below)
Baraga FO	Tree trimming, skid pier fabricating, snow plowing, equipment maintenance
Bewabic SP	We have noticed damage at multiple BAS facilities, including Indian Lake and Lake Mary in Iron County, due to flooding.



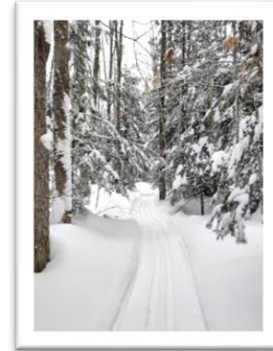
Trails



Twin Lakes SP	Ski trail was groomed and used this year, helped by park receiving a new snowmobile and more grooming. Photo below.
Escanaba FO	Grooming for Anderson Lake and Days River Pathways is finished for the season. Anderson had more traffic than in past seasons overall, and Days River had similar use to past seasons.

Fort Wilkins HSP	No significant changes. Trail uses this period is mostly cross-country skiing. It was about the same as last year.
Little Presque Isle	Advertising for trail improvements (existing trails) within the Little Presque Isle State Forest will go out within the coming weeks.
Baraga SP	Many snowmobiles were still out on the trails right up until the snow disappeared and the season ended.
Wells SP	Forest island trail improvements are still moving in a good direction. Anticipated to be complete late summer early fall.

Day Use



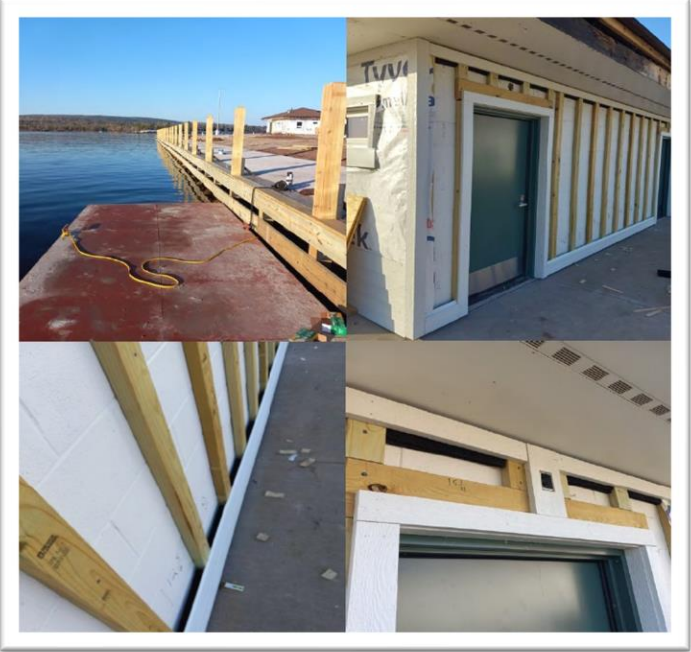
Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew	The crew made repairs the railing and decking of the boardwalk leading to the Big Spring area at Palms Book State Park. They also made repairs to one of the bathroom buildings at Indian Lake State Park.
McLain SP	McLain is projected to be busy with shelter rentals in the day use area this year.
Bond Falls	There have been many calls regarding if the site is open and the spring opening date. Requests for wedding use permits applications are beginning to increase as the season approaches.
Menominee River	Accessibility improvement projects are in the initial planning phase with project statements being drafted.
Bewabic SP	Continue to work on ARPA asphalt and sewer rehabilitation project at Bewabic State Park

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

Escanaba FO	Escanaba Field Office is once again back to full staffing of career employees. Our seasonal ranger has returned from layoff, and our third and final full-time position has been filled.
Bond Falls	STW hiring has gone well this year in comparison to the past couple of years. Our two positions are filled. We actually have people who can work more than we have hours allotted.
Baraga SP	STW hiring has been going much better this season and are very close to having a full staff. We only have one vacant position left to fill.
McLain SP	This spring we only have one park ranger at McLain (the other ranger position is vacant) Shout out to Ranger John Codere for all his hard work at getting the park ready for this upcoming use season. Thanks for all you do John!

Little Presque Isle	After the DNR All Employee meeting, Van Riper State Park staff and the Western UP Regional Field Planner were able to tour the Planning Section Unit Manager around the unit. This gave the opportunity to show her all that we encompass and take a quick look at the condition of some of our areas and discuss both success and issues with projects and aging infrastructure.
Van Riper SP	The Van Riper State Park Unit was fortunate enough to host the National Association of State Park Directors Board this past week in Marquette. The board participated in their business meetings while here and were able to visit a few sites within proximity to the Marquette area to see the beauty and learn about our successes and challenges. This was a great opportunity to showcase our area and discuss challenges that other states are facing.
Porcupine Mountains	Michael Smith was hired as the new ski hill Ranger. The ski hill closed on Sunday April 2nd, 2023, with record breaking number of ski passes sold.

Design, Construction, Capital Outlay and ARPA Projects

Twin Lakes SP	Spending considerable amount of time going over design plans for campground renovations for fall of 2023
Porcupine Mountains	Porcupine Mountains Shooting Complex project is currently underway, with a substantial completion this summer.
Eagle Harbor	Eagle Harbor Marina expansion project is still underway. Final completion fall 2023. Photo below.
Fort Wilkins HSP	The water and sewer upgrade project were put on hold for the winter. Work resumed early May.
Van Riper SP	<p>Unit staff at Van Riper State Park have been working closely with the Regional Field Planner to come up with a plan for the Overlook Trail Stair Repairs for the coming season. The park received a \$50,000 grant to complete work and the bid package is in process. The bid package for an Asphalt Pavement Patch along the road to the rustic campground, from repair to a failed culvert, is just waiting for the snow to melt to take accurate measurements. Design for the Harlow Lake Fishing Pier is complete and is ready for bid. Capital Outlay projects at the Michigan Iron Industry Museum are currently in the design phase and staff is beginning to meet with the engineering company on site to complete necessary studies.</p> 
Lake Gogebic SP	UPEA was selected as contractor for the ARPA funded park improvements at Lake Gogebic. Improvement will include upgrade e50 amp electrical service throughout the campground, water line replacement, sewage lagoon improvements and storm water drainage management.
McLain SP	Hoping to have the construction done by mid-May at McLain. The design contract for Douglas Houghton Falls Scenic Site was awarded to UPEA of Houghton.

Bewabic SP	We continue to work on ARPA asphalt and wastewater projects at Bewabic State Park.
Menominee River	Accessibility improvements in day use areas in the initial planning phase for the Piers Gorge Unit of the MRSRA

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

Trail Specialist: Rob Katona, Central Upper Peninsula

Project Names	Description	Trail Use	Anticipated Completion	Q3 Updates
ORV Route Grading in Alger, Delta, Marquette, Menominee, and Dickinson Counties	Multiple projects for grading and smoothing ORV routes with multiple grades planned in high use areas to help prevent rough routes	Rail Trails & ORV Routes	Summer 2023	Received funding some projects have been advertised will continue to work on remaining ones.
Sturgeon River Bridge	Bridge rehab snowmobile Trail 2 in Dickinson County on State owned Rail-Trail	Rail Trails	October 2023	Mobilization and bridge work will begin in June.
Nahma Grade Multi-use Trail	Design and construction 3.7-mile multi-use Rail Trail in Delta County work includes clearing, surfacing and culvert/bridge installation	Rail Trails	TBD	Received funding, revised work order and project will be going out for bids the end of May.
Clowry Grade Bridges #2, #3 & #6	Design and rehab/construction of multiple bridges on this designated ORV/snowmobile multi-use Rail Trail in Marquette County	Rail Trails	November 2023	Mobilization will occur in June with work starting after July 4 th . The trail will be closed after the July 4 th weekend through the end of September.
Clowry Grade Bridges #1, #4, #5 & #7	Design and rehab/construction of multiple bridges on this designated ORV/snowmobile multi-use Rail-Trail in Marquette County	Rail Trails	TBD	No new updates.
Clowry ORV Improvements	Continue filling low areas and culvert replacement on the Clowry Grade ORV C & CL Routes	Rail Trails	October 2023	Received funding, working on scope and PR request.
Little Presque Isle Rec Area Improvements	Trail repairs, parking improvements and boardwalk/bridge repairs throughout 42 sites at LPI recreation area and Wetmore Pond	Non-Motorized & Mountain Bike	November 2023	Received additional funding, revised work order and will be going out for bids the end of May.
Days River Single Track Trail Construction	Approximately 10 miles of single-track trail construction designed for mountain bike use	Non-Motorized & Mountain Bike	2024	New proposal is nearly approved.
Tyoga Pathway Bridges	Replace one bridge and replace or rehab second bridge both spanning the Laughing Whitefish River	Non-Motorized	TBD	No new updates.
LPI Songbird Trail and Harlow Creek Bridges	Replace two popular pedestrian bridges on the LPI songbird trail and pathway to cabin #6 and north trail system	Non-Motorized	TBD	No new updates.
Genes Pond Pathway	Construction of 1.75-mile accessible pathway with scenic overlooks adjacent to state forest campground located near Ralph in Dickinson County	Non-Motorized	2024	No new updates.

Laughing Whitefish Falls Bridge	New pedestrian bridge construction on NCT over Laughing Whitefish River at the Laughing Whitefish Falls Natural Area	Non-Motorized	TBD	No new updates.
Norway-Carney ORV/Snowmobile Connector Culverts	New ORV route/ snow-mobile trail development with several stream crossings requiring new culvert installation. New trail will connect the Norway ORV trail with Carney Lake Rd providing an east-west connection across Dickinson County	ORV/ Snowmobile	September 2023	EGLE permits approved, final work will begin in June.
Days River ORV Route Grading and Gravel	Replace culvert, grade, shape, and fill Days River ORV Route in Delta County	ORV	September 2022	Funding received, working on scope and PR request.
Marquette County ORV Routes Improvements	Repair large holes replace culverts and surfacing on multiple ORV routes in western Marquette County	ORV	September 2022	Funding received working on scope and PR request. Multiple washouts have occurred near Republic during the spring snow melt on the ORV C Route resulting in trail closures. One large culvert replacement project is currently out for bids to repair the washout by mid-June, a second large washout involves a bridge with an abutment washout I am currently sizing up the repair to determine cost and work scope.
Forest Islands Repairs and Restoration	Repair damaged board walks and damage in low wet areas on the Forest Islands ORV Trail/Route in Menominee and Delta Counties	ORV	September 2023	Work continues.
Felch Grade Surface Improvements II	Gravel capping on the Felch Grade in Menominee and Dickinson Counties	ORV	June 2023	Work to begin soon.
Bass Lake Restoration	Perform reroutes around eroded areas.	ORV	September 2023	Funding received, working on scope and PR request.
Gwinn-Arnold Improvements and Restoration III	ORV G route Marquette County filling, gravel, and culvert work	ORV	September 2023	Funding received, working on scope and PR request.
Delta-Menominee ORV Routes Improvements	Minor bridge railing and decking repairs replace culverts and surfacing work	ORV	September 2023	Funding received, working on scope and PR request.
Central UP ORV Route Dust Control	Perform dust control at multiple sites on ORV routes to prevent dust caused by ORV traffic in residential areas and other areas meeting criteria	ORV	June 2023	Contract with new sites will be ready for treatment in early June.
PROPOSAL: Hiawatha NF ORV Routes	Nearly 100 miles of ORV routes proposed to be designated that would provide connectivity and looped riding across Marquette, Delta, Alger and Schoolcraft Counties	ORV	2024	USFS provided mixed use analysis, however, it was incomplete. Waiting for follow-up information.

<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Norway Rock Motorcycle Trail	New single-track construction in Dickinson County adjacent to the Norway ORV trail	ORV		WLD denied; no further progress will occur without their support.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Moose Mountain Reroute Snowmobile Trail 8 Three Lakes	Trail/bridge improvements and reroutes around difficult to groom areas. Logging operation on SCTC property to offset trail reroute costs	Snowmobile	Fall 2023	No new updates.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Days River Nature Trail	Designate and improve non-motorized pathway located along the Days River near Little Bay De Noc	Non-Motorized Pathway	2023	Boardwalk work will begin in June.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Westwood Pathway	Designate and improve non-motorized pathway located on State owned property adjacent to Ishpeming DNR FO and Westwood High School	Non-Motorized Pathway	Summer 2022	Going through review process.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Negaunee-Eagle Mills-Gwinn-Little Lake ORV Route	ORV Designate existing snowmobile trails that are already heavily used by ORVs. Designation will allow funding for maintenance and provide direction for community connectivity	ORV	Proposal submitted Summer/Fall 2022	Continuing work with CN RR, MDOT, and the MCRC.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Little Lake – Chatham RR Grade ORV Route	ORV Designate segments of existing RR grade and county roads to provide ORV connectivity between Chatham and Little Lake and beyond	ORV	Proposal submitted Summer/Fall 2022	No new updates.