



Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: November/December 2022 (Information current as of 11/28/2022)

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

Western UP DNR Staff Highlight – DNR DoNe Right!

Thanks to the efforts of **Fisheries Biologist George Madison**, the state-owned dam list is one lighter. George sought funding from the Bond Falls Mitigation Fund to remove the Beatons Lake Dam/fish barrier and was successful. Technicians assisted with a longitudinal profile to address any potential concerns with head-cutting in advance. George worked with the landowner to obtain permission and provided official notification that the lease would be terminated. Because it was an unregulated dam, a dam safety permit was not required nor were engineered plans. Similarly, because the cost of removal was under \$50,000, we did not have to go through DTMB design and construction. George obtained the EGLE permit and worked with financial staff to advertise for bids. An onsite meeting was held with contractors and three bids were received. George met with the construction firm on the day of removal to assist with rock placement and revegetation. Thanks for your efforts, George!



November NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met at Lansing Community College on November 10, 2022. The major actions taken:

Director Dan Eichinger approved:

- [A land use order](#) transferring administration and management of the Michigan Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee from the Michigan History Center to the Parks and Recreation Division.
- Nine land transactions. Details of these transactions can be found linked within [the NRC agenda](#).

The commission approved:

- [Fisheries Order 206.23](#), which provides for a variety of changes to regulations for warmwater species on select waters. The commission also approved [an amendment](#) to this order that was put forward by Commissioner David Cozad.
- [Regulations for spring turkey hunting](#).
- [A resolution from Commissioner Keith Creagh](#) requesting that the department bring forth an order in the next deer regulation cycle to allow certified dog trackers to use off-leash dogs in helping hunters recover wounded deer.

The commission tabled action on [Fisheries Order 210.23](#), which would remove trout stream designation from three water bodies, in order to get more information about this proposed change.

Governance and Policy Committee

Amy Trotter, executive director of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, along with MUCC Board Chair Tim Muir, presented to the committee a summary of [resolutions from MUCC's 2022 convention](#). Amy also discussed ongoing and upcoming issues important to MUCC's membership.

Commission Chair Tom Baird said the commission had established a meeting schedule for the next year. Tom identified future areas of focus for the commission, which include deer regulations – the three year cycle for regulations is due for review next year – wolves and the effects of climate change.

Fisheries Committee

Gary Whelan of the Fisheries Division [told the committee about research related to fish movement](#), using the Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observation System (GLATOS), a technology for following the movement of tagged fish. Through GLATOS, transmitters implanted in fish provide information on the location of the fish, water temperatures, depth, how fast the fish are moving, their diets as well as archived information. The system allows scientists to track fish across great distances. Currently there are nearly 2,000 transmitters deployed in 49 different species, providing hundreds of millions of data points on fish movement in the Great Lakes. Fisheries Division is using this data to better understand the movements of lake trout, whitefish, cisco, muskellunge, smallmouth bass and yellow perch.

Committee of the Whole

Director Dan Eichinger recognized Louise Klarr for her service on the Natural Resources Commission. Louise was on the commission from December 2012 to December 2020, serving on several committees and workgroups.

Next, Louise's husband, Gunnar Klarr of the Shikar Safari Club International, presented the Shikar Safari International Wildlife Officer of the Year Award. The 2021 winner, chosen by his peers in the Law Enforcement Division, was Cpl. Mike Hearn. Cpl. Hearn has been a conservation officer for 18 years, beginning his career in Kalkaska County. In 2021, he was promoted to recreational safety corporal for the Law Enforcement Division, overseeing snowmobile and off-road vehicle programs and other safety courses. Among other things, Cpl. Hearn was recognized for his work with marine related alcohol enforcement, his work with the agricultural community and his strong relationships with ORV and snowmobile clubs. LED Chief David Shaw recognized Cpl. Hearn's wife, Jessica, and their three children for supporting his important work protecting Michigan citizens and the state's natural resources.

Ron Olson, chief of the Parks and Recreation Division, presented lifesaving awards to eight members of his division for three different events:

- At about 3 a.m. on June 12, 2022, Park Rangers Gerard Molaison and Travis Hall were notified by Central Dispatch in Roscommon County that two individuals had capsized their kayaks on Higgins Lake, about 1,000 yards off shore. The two rangers were able to locate the individuals, pull them into their boat, check them for hypothermia and safely return them to their campsites.
- On June 16, 2022, Park Ranger Dominic Goulette and State Workers Claire Hines and Haley Spalding set out to Devoe Lake Beach in Rifle River Recreation Area to adjust swim buoys. They were alerted to an adult woman

outside of the buoyed swim area who was struggling to stay afloat. Hines swam to the woman and put her in a rescue hold to swim her back to shore. Goulette and Spalding assisted them in a lifeboat. The woman said she wouldn't have survived without their help.

- On June 28, 2022, Grand Haven State Park Supervisor Andrew LundBorg, Lead Ranger Arica Johnson and Park Ranger Sarah Loughman were working at the park when red flag conditions were in effect. LundBorg and his staff were notified of multiple swimmers in distress. Most of the swimmers made it back to shore, but they saw one young man who had been swept beyond the swim buoys. LundBorg donned a life vest and grabbed a rope, then worked with Loughman and Johnson to pull the young man to safety, saving his life.

Chad Stewart of the Wildlife Division [told the commission about the 2023 revision of the Department's Elk Management Plan](#). Cody Norton of the Wildlife Division gave [a presentation on the 2022 update of the department's Wolf Management Plan](#). Both plans will be before the director for approval at next month's meeting.

Commissioners received [a report on legislation affecting the department](#) (below).

The next NRC Meeting will be held on December 8, 2022 in Lansing.

How to Participate in the NRC Meetings

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

November 2022 Legislative Updates – Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

HB 6354 (H-5) – Eliminates Natural Resources Commission Authority to Issue an Order Requiring a Hunter to Report the Harvest of Deer – Rep. Hoitenga

This bill as introduced amended 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 H-5 version removed the penalty language entirely from the introduced version. Instead, HB 6354 (H-5), as enrolled, would prohibit the Natural Resources Commission from issuing an order or interim order requiring hunters to report the harvest of deer or retain the harvest confirmation for that deer unless it is taken under a deer damage shooting permit or a disease control permit.

- The bill was passed by the House and Senate and vetoed by the Governor.
- The Administration is opposed to the H-5 version of the legislation.

HB 6398 and Senate Bill 1172 – Modify Definition of a Peace Officer in the Mental Health Code – Rep. Cherry and Sen. Chang

These bills are identical bills and 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.

- House Bill 6398 has been referred to the House Committee on Health Policy. Senate Bill 1172 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy and Human Services.

- The Administration has not yet taken a position 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 and click on the appropriate meeting and/or agenda for instructions.

December 1	Snowmobile Advisory Group, 10am (call 517-331-6219)
December 5	Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, 6pm, Virtual via Zoom
December 6	Accessibility Advisory Council, 9am (call 517-284-5946)
December 6	Equine Trails Subcommittee, 9am (call 517-331-6219)
December 6	Michigan State Waterways Commission, 10:30am (call 517-285-0747)
December 7	State Parks Advisory Committee, 2pm (call 517-284-6135)
December 7	Wildlife's UP Sportsperson Coalition, 6pm, Marquette DNR Office
December 8	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, 9am, Lansing (call 517-599-1067)
December 8	Michigan Trails Advisory Council, 6pm (call 517-331-6219)
December 10	Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council, 10am (call 517-582-3220)
December 13	Michigan Iron Industry Museum Advisory Board, 3pm (call 906-475-7857)
December 13	Wildlife's UP Sportsperson Coalition, Crystal Falls, 6pm Central, Location TBD
December 14	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, 9am (call 517-284-5954)
December 15	Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, 6pm, Newberry
January 12	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, 9am, Lansing (call 517-599-1067)
February 9	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, 9am, Lansing (call 517-599-1067)

Upcoming Opportunity to Serve

The DNR is seeking interested candidates to serve on the [Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup](#). The purpose of the workgroup is to assist the [Michigan Trails Advisory Council](#) in providing the DNR advice on the creation, development, operation and maintenance of the designated snowmobile trail system. Members will serve a four-year term and are expected to participate in four meetings a year. Complete an [online application](#) or contact [Anna Centofanti](#) at 517-331-6219 with questions or for more information.

U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities

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

January 6	Lantern-Lit Ski & Snowshoe, Blueberry Ridge Pathway (Crossroads Area)
January 13	Snowshoe Guided Hike-Advanced, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
January 14	Snowshoe Guided Hike-Beginner, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
January 14	Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
January 20	Snowshoe Guided Hike-Advanced, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
January 21	Snowshoe Guided Hike-Beginner, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
January 21	Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
January 21	Feeding Winter Birds-Virtual Class (Pre-Register by Jan. 19 here)
February 3	Snowshoe Guided Hike-Advanced, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 4	Snowshoe Guided Hike-Beginner, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 4	Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Porkies Winter Sports Complex

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- Showcasing the DNR: Thanksgiving a good time to reflect on wild turkey's comeback (11/23/22)

- DNR gets \$5 million grant for river, stream restoration work in 14 counties (11/22/22)
- DNR's holiday gift guide: Ideas for the outdoor adventurer on your list (11/21/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: Another kind of harvest gathering (11/17/22)
- Buy your snowmobile trail permit and ready your sled for the season! (11/17/22)
- ORV-snowmobile trail segment remains closed in Dickinson County (11/16/22)
- DNR News: Waterways anniversary, donate your deer, November hiking and more (11/15/22)
- Options to test your deer for chronic wasting disease (11/15/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: Don't burn that butterfly's blankie! (11/10/22)
- DNR seeks feedback on Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (11/10/22)

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, 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 |

Eastern UPCAC Update

The **Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council** will meet in person on December 15, 2022 at the LMAS District Health Department conference room in Newberry. (Weather conditions that day may change this to a virtual meeting.) Agenda topics have not been determined.

DNR seeks to fill upcoming vacancies on UP Citizens' Advisory councils

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is soliciting applications for open volunteer positions on the Eastern and Western Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Councils. The councils are designed to advise the DNR on regional programs and policies, identify areas in which the department can be more effective and responsive, and offer insight and guidance from members' own experiences and from the public. **A Dec. 15 deadline has been set to apply for membership to the councils.** Several vacancies are available.

The councils currently meet every other month, with meeting agenda items set by council members. Council recommendations are forwarded to the DNR for consideration in policy-formation and decision-making processes. "The councils are a great opportunity for members and the public to learn about, and have input into, DNR issues, programs and decisions," said John Pepin, DNR deputy public information officer. "Since their creation, the U.P. citizens' advisory councils have drafted over 100 recommendations on a wide variety of topics, the wide majority of which have been approved by the DNR."

Council members, who are required to have their **primary residence** located in the U.P.'s five eastern or 10 western counties, represent a wide variety of natural resource and recreation interest groups or the citizenry at large. Members are selected for the councils based on a variety of factors. Each council includes roughly 20 members.

Application forms and more information about the councils are available online at Michigan.gov/UPCAC or by calling the DNR's Marquette Customer Service Center at 906-226-1331. Completed applications may be faxed to 906-228-9441, emailed to dahlstromk@michigan.gov, or mailed to DNR, Attn: CAC, 1990 U.S. 41 South, Marquette, MI 49855.

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

Division Updates

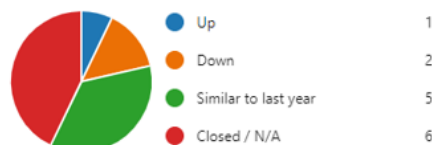
Parks & Recreation Division: Doug Rich, WUP District Supervisor

Use Statistics

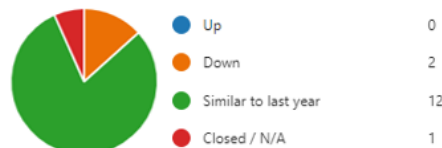
Camping



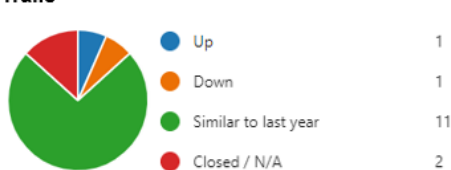
Overnight Lodging



Boating / Harbors



Trails



Day Use



Camping

District Wide	All state park campgrounds closed and buttoned up for winter by December first.
McLain	Construction project at McLain has caused our camp numbers to drop.
Twin Lakes	Camping was good later this fall with the late arrival of the color season.
Baraga SP	Full hook up sites consistently booked, could have built many more and they would be booked too. State Forest campgrounds remained busy in September and mid-October.
Bewabic SP	Winterized toilet shower buildings in campground and day use. Closed B-loop in preparation for oak wilt remediation.
Escanaba FO	STW's removed brush at SF campgrounds.

Overnight Lodging

McLain	Construction at McLain has all overnight lodging closed until next summer, and the project is moving along nicely with major upgrades to all cabins.
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Little Presque Isle	Usage down this period in 2022 due to 1 cabin being closed for maintenance.
Fort Wilkins	East Campground, Shelter and Mini cabin were closed due to construction.

Boating Access Sites and Harbors

Cedar River	Sidewalk replaced construction will be ongoing to fix docks, and fuel dock area.
Eagle Harbor	MJO contracting has been working on the boater's lounge upgrades and grounds improvement, with the majority of the in-water work being completed in the spring of 2023.
Escanaba FO	Worked on brush removal at BAS sites and use has been average. Dredging was also done at Marquette Fish Hatchery for Fisheries Division.

Trails

Baraga FO	Working on the Bill Nichols trail in Painesdale - trail slump, ditching, gravel lift on trail.
Baraga SP	Many ORV's being brought in with campers to the park and to the ORV staging area.
Porkies	Day use at trailheads seems to be down compared to last year.
Escanaba FO	Hazardous tree maintenance / removal has been completed on pathways.

Day Use

Bond Falls	One wedding at Bond Falls. Use was still very high due to fall colors.
Porkies	Porkies - Day use was down until fall colors peaked and had long waits to get to the scenic sites.
Bewabic	Bewabic- winterized buildings in day use.
Menominee River	Planning for oak wilt remediation at the end of October at Piers Gorge.
Lake Gogebic Field Crew	The Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew created over 450 feet of new railing, this September at Palms Book State Park, along the pathway to the Big Spring to reduce the unwanted damage an erosion of visitors exploring while waiting for the raft. This included the setting by hand of 111 4x4 posts and uncounted number of spindles.
Fort Wilkins	New jug fillers in East Campground are installed

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

McLain	The Tiny house is now in its permanent location in the campground and will be rentable next summer.
Twin Lakes	The Mi-TRALE/Twin Lakes SP fall senior ride on 9/29 was a success, 62 riders were on the ride. It was a great day of Side-by-Side riding, with a nice pasty meal in our enclosed shelter followed by cookies and ice cream. After lunch we took the Winona school children and teacher for a color tour to the trestles on Trail #3. A big thank you for the ATV drivers who volunteer their time and machines.
Baraga SP	The vacant park officer position was filled by Mathew Garner. Matt has been an STW at Metamora- Hadley RA and Ortonville RA. He is not commissioned yet, but he will get signed up for the next available academy. We are glad to have him join our team.
Porkies	Tele-fest volunteers cleared glade runs on the ski hill. Todd Penegor was hired as the maintenance mechanic for the ski hill.

Bewabic	Ranger Mike Behrndt resigned from state service to pursue career in private sector.
Escanaba FO	Two of three vacant positions have been filled. New ranger Justin Marenger attending operation academy. STWs are done for the season.
Lake Gogebic Field Crew	The crew began working on multiple projects at the Porkies including work on the Folk School entrance, the ski chalet, and the Old Fire Barn which is being converted into new staff office space.
Van Riper	The park hosted 2 weekends of Harvest Festival following Labor Day weekend. Both weekends the campground was full. Snowmobile season meetings were starting to get underway. The NRC met in Marquette and information was given to the Commission regarding co-management between the Michigan History Center and the Park & Recreation Division for the Michigan Iron Industry Museum to become a sub-unit of Van Riper State Park.
Little Presque Isle	The Friends of Harlow had a work bee at the beginning of October to work on some trail hardening in a rough section.

Design, Construction, and Capital Outlay Projects

McLain	Phase 3 construction is moving along, the lakeshore armoring is finished, and the cabins have all been moved. The water wells, and sewer system updates are next as they progress with the construction.
Fort Wilkins	The waterline project in the east campground is mostly complete, and contractor is working on the headquarters water system upgrades.
Porkies	Chairlift upgrades were completed. Fall color chairlift rides were a success with 100% capacity loading. The fire barn stabilization project is complete and working to take the staff quarters and lodging projects out to bid.
Bewabic	Continuing project planning on wastewater disposal and paving projects at Bewabic.
Twin Lakes	Continuing project planning/design on sewer, roads, and new toilet building.
Little Presque Isle	Trail Improvement Projects are still in the design phases and meeting are being scheduled to review plans and be ready for spring construction.

Fisheries Division: George Madison, Western Lake Superior Management Unit

The following are the western Upper Peninsula fisheries division highlights for the period of October 13, 2022 through December 4, 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*
- *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*

Current Events

- Staff conducted November lake surveys for evaluating inland Freshwater Cisco populations.
- Equipment and gear storage was undertaken to allow for winter care.
- Walleye ponds were prepped for the 2023 rearing season.
- Fall Brook Trout stocking was completed by the Marquette State Fish Hatchery. →→ pic →→→



- The Marquette State Fish Hatchery completed egg take operations for Splake, Brook Trout, and Lake Trout.
- With the warm fall weather, anglers enjoyed salmon fishing on Lake Superior streams and saw a bit of a later than normal spawning run of these fish. Nearshore boater fishing off river mouths was productive for Lake Trout and Salmon.
- Muskellunge rearing harvest was conducted on October 26 at the Thompson State Fish Hatchery (located near the town of Manistique) with Hatchery Manager Randy Espinoza reporting the following: *We drained and harvested "pond 4" musky this morning. This was our second musky pond of this fall. It went very well with many hands helping and big thanks to the drivers to get them stocked. Beautiful healthy fish. Size = 9.5", Quantity = ~ 6,368.* Stocking site note: *After that musky pond was drained this morning, we then put 133,000 steelhead on a truck going to Falls River in L'Anse.*

Northern Hatcheries Update for WUPCAC, Dan Sampson, Regional Hatchery Manager

Staffing

- At the Marquette Hatchery, a vacant Fisheries Technician position was filled by hiring Dave Lombardi, who used to be a creel clerk out of Newberry. This brings Marquette hatchery and all three northern hatcheries back to full staffing.

Marquette State Fish Hatchery

- The hatchery is finally open to the public again as of November 21. After the pandemic, it was kept closed due to safety concerns during the construction project on Cherry Creek.
- Cherry Creek Stabilization project: The Capital Outlay project is close to substantial completion but will not be able to be finished until spring.
- Fish culture: Spawning is wrapping up and all is going well. All goals are being fully met.
- Arctic Grayling: The 2021 year-class arrived from Oden's containment after passing their third health testing. This gives Marquette two year-classes, which will give us the ability to cross the two when the younger group matures, probably starting in 2024.
- Maintenance:
 - The brood isolation building is nearing the engineering 50% completion mark. We are not yet sure if the inadequate building will be expanded or rebuilt. This building keeps immature brood fish separated from the production fish and uses well water, further reducing disease risks.

Thompson State Fish Hatchery

- Fish culture: All goals are being met.
 - Thompson's muskie production hit the goal perfectly, with 28,114 muskies stocked from Thompson, averaging 9.3". Stocking in the UP include 700 in Teal Lake, 100 in Dana Lake, and 130 in McKeever Lake.
 - Steelhead: Fry are doing well in the nursery. All goals are expected to be met.
 - Chinook salmon: Eggs are eyed and will be hatching soon.
- Maintenance:
 - Solar: Gearing up to replace the outer layer of the production raceways this spring. This is necessary so the solar panels will be installed on a surface that will last their lifespan. Installation will be in June 2023

Oden State Fish Hatchery

- Fish Culture: All goals are being met.
 - All young of the year brown trout and rainbow trout are doing extremely well.
 - Spawning is complete for all brown trout and advanced rainbow trout, which will be reared at Oden. Normal timing rainbow trout spawning will start right before Christmas, for eggs to supply Harrietta State Fish Hatchery.
 - Planning to switch all of Oden's rainbows for 2024 stocking to being from photoperiod advanced adults. The pinch point for this is going to be space in the nursery in March 2023.

- Maintenance:
 - Solar power: The areas have been cleared for two solar array projects. One array is expected to offset energy consumption for the main hatchery by 16%. The other array is expected to offset about 75% of the energy consumption for the Isolation building and Viewing Chamber. Construction for both will happen in May 2023
 - Two Electric Vehicle charging stations are being installed at the Visitor Center.

Electronics

- The emergency alarm monitoring system has been successfully upgraded to Opto Epic Groov. This system uses both the 800 MHz radio system and cellular technology to alert staff to after-hour emergencies. This is important because it gives us two independent ways to alert staff and ends our reliance on outdated landlines. Our two Electronics staff members will be completing similar conversions at three more hatcheries over the next year.

Forest Resources Division: Tom Seablom, Western UP District Supervisor

- Field work on the 2024 YOE Inventory has been completed. Field work for the 2025 YOE Inventory season started in October. Open House and Compartment Review schedules for the 2025 YOE will be posted online along with other state forest inventory information at: Michigan.Gov/Forestry.
- As of November 18th, 301 timber sale contracts are open WUP Wide. This represents 909,090 cords of timber on 51,171 acres, valued at approximately \$34.4 million. Included in this are 24 GNA sales representing 95,989 cords of timber on 5,370 acres, valued at approximately \$3.4 million. As November 2nd, 6 sales are available WUP Wide for the minimum advertised price. This represents 6,837 cords of timber. Find more information on State Forest timber sales at: Michigan.Gov/Timber.
- WUP Units are reporting 30 Active Timber Sales in the WUP totaling about 2,000 acres. Units report good demand for hardwood sawtimber and pulpwood.
- Units have been focusing on getting a head start on the 2023FY timber harvest plan with about 12,600 acres planned for treatment. In addition, units have been working on wrapping up road and bridge improvement projects and snowmobile trail inspections.
- Starting January 1st open enrollment for the Commercial Forest Program will continue until April 1st. For more information on the Commercial Forest Program go to Michigan.Gov/Commercialforest.

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

Trail Specialist: Jeff Kakuk, Western Upper Peninsula

Snowmobile Trails:

- **UP15 snowmobile trail** has been closed the past two seasons due to the failure of a bridge in the Sturgeon River Sloughs Wildlife Area. The project is being funded and managed by DNR Wildlife Division. Final permitting is now in place and the project will be able to move forward and be ready for the 23/24 season.
- The **Bill Nicholls Rail Trail (UP3)** temporary repairs are completed and trail has opened between Painsdale and South Range.
- The **Stager to Crystal Rail Trail (UP113)** just south of Crystal Falls is also closed due to another washout. Engineering is also started on this site and floodplain remediation is included in the work scope. The City of Crystal Falls has developed an alternate route for the trail connection.
- **UP15 has been closed between Trail UP2 and Trail UP111 in Iron County** as a bridge inspection has deemed the bridge unsafe. This is a difficult area for trail rerouting and options are still being reviewed by USFS, DNR and trail sponsor.

- **UP2 between Wakefield and Ramsay** has been closed due to loss of land permissions. The communities, trail sponsor and DNR continue to review new connectivity options.

Trail Specialist: Rob Katona, Central Upper Peninsula

- **Rob Katona, Central UP**

Project Names	Description	Trail Use	Anticipated Completion	Q4 Update
ORV Route Grading 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	Summer 2022	Projects have been completed.
Sturgeon River Bridge	Bridge rehab snowmobile Trail 2 in Dickinson County on State owned Rail-Trail	Rail Trails	September 2022	SHPO complete and the project is currently out for bids.
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		Project on hold awaiting funding.
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		SHPO complete and the project is currently out for bids. Seeking additional funding for bridge #6.
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	2025	Currently in a holding phase for moving into engineering/design.
Clowry ORV Improvements	Filling several low areas and culvert replacement on the Clowry Grade ORV C & CL Routes	Rail Trails	July 29, 2022	Project has been completed.
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	2-23	Engineering/design continues with construction in 2023.
Days River Single Track Trail Construction	Approximately 10 miles of single-track trail construction designed for mountain bike use	Non-Motorized & Mountain Bike	2023	Engineering/design has started with Rock Solid Trail Builders.
Thunder Valley Trail Development	Complete construction on three additional loops and connector trail to	Non-Motorized & Equestrian	July 29, 2022	Project has been completed.

	Fairgrounds designed for equestrian use			
Tyoga Pathway Bridges	Replace one bridge and replace or rehab second bridge both spanning the Laughing Whitefish River	Non-Motorized	2023-2024	Currently in a holding phase for moving into engineering/design.
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	2023-2024	Currently in a holding phase for moving into engineering/design.
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	2023-2024	Engineering/design continues however construction has been pushed out to 2024 due to federal bat protection requirements, tree clearing may only occur between October and March.
Laughing Whitefish Falls Bridge	New pedestrian bridge construction on NCT over Laughing Whitefish River at the Laughing Whitefish Falls Natural Area	Non-Motorized	2023-2024	Currently in a holding phase for moving into engineering/design.
Norway-Carney ORV/Snowmobile Connector Culverts	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	ORV/Snowmobile	Summer/Fall 2022	Project is 90% complete.
Days River ORV Route Grading and Gravel	Replace culvert, grade, shape, and fill Days River ORV Route in Delta County	ORV	September 2022	Some work has been completed.
Marquette County ORV Routes Improvements	Repair large holes replace culverts and surfacing on multiple ORV routes in western Marquette County	ORV	September 2022	All work has been completed.
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	N/A	Work continues with completion expected in November-December.
Felch Grade Surface Improvements II	Gravel capping on the Felch Grade in Menominee and Dickinson Counties	ORV	July 2022	Project is currently out for bids.
Bass Lake Restoration	Perform reroutes around eroded areas.	ORV	September 2022	Some work will occur this fall, contractor availability has been limited for this work.

Gwinn-Arnold Improvements and Restoration II	ORV G route Marquette County filling, gravel, and culvert work	ORV	August 2022	Project has been completed.
Delta-Menominee ORV Routes Improvements	Minor bridge railing and decking repairs replace culverts and surfacing work	ORV	September 2022	Most work has been completed with some additional grading to occur this fall.
Central U.P. 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 2022	Work has been completed.
Hiawatha NF ORV Routes Proposal	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		Had meeting with USFS to review proposal they are conducting additional analysis with approval for some of the routes expected by January.
Norway Rock Motorcycle Trail Proposal	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 & Three Lakes	Trail/bridge improvements and reroutes around difficult to groom areas. Logging operation on SCTC property to offset trail reroute costs	Snowmobile	January 2022	Additional work has begun.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Days River Nature Trail	Designate and improve non-motorized pathway located along the Days River near Little Bay DeNoc	Non-Motorized Pathway	Spring 2022	EGLE permits have been obtained some work to occur this fall depending on funding.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Dickinson County Snowmobile Trail Reroutes	Multiple reroutes to relocate trails to better areas and work with private landowners and the DCRC	Snowmobile	December 2021	Proposals have been approved.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : NCT/IBT Silver Lake Reroute	Trail reroute to locate trail off of roads near Silver Lake proposal involves some State land for both trail development and parking	Non-Motorized Pathway	Summer 2022	Proposal was approved.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Westwood Pathway	Designate and improve non-motorized pathway located on State owned property adjacent to Ishpeming DNR FO and Westwood High School	Non-Motorized Pathway	Summer 2022	Proposal is going through review.

<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Negaunee-Eagle Mills-Gwinn-Little Lake ORV Route	ORV Designate existing snowmobile trails that are already heavily used by ORVs. Designation will allow funding for maintenance and provide direction for community connectivity	ORV	Proposal submitted Summer/Fall 2022	Waiting on the final permits from landowners. Working with CN RR on opening IOHT crossing in Negaunee.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Little Lake – Chatham RR grade ORV Route	ORV Designate segments of existing RR grade and county roads to provide ORV connectivity between Chatham and Little Lake and beyond	ORV	Proposal submitted Summer/Fall 2022	Submitted title analysis request for determining ownership across several remaining gaps.

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

- **COs Byron Parks and Thomas Peterson** conducted a grouse decoy patrol in Ontonagon County. The location was a common spot for complaints of grouse hunters shooting from vehicles. During the patrol, the COs observed a pickup truck traveling slowly towards the decoy. As the truck got approximately 20 yards from the decoy it stopped, then the COs could see the driver pull out a firearm and load it while still in the truck. The driver then opened the door and exited the truck. Contact was made and the subject was issued a citation for a loaded/uncased firearm in a motor vehicle.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** responded to a report of an unattended bonfire that spread at a residence in Iron River. The subject who started the fire arrived on scene and stated they left to go to town to get coffee. The fire spread to other locations near the residence and was able to be suppressed by the fire department. A citation was issued for failing to prevent the spread of fire.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** checked a waterfowl hunter at a boat launch in Dickinson County. The CO contacted the hunter, who stated he shot one goose that morning. The CO observed the boat's registration was expired and discovered there were two shotguns in the boat. A citation was issued for possessing more than one firearm and a warning was given for operating the unregistered watercraft.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** observed an ATV in Iron River with no ORV sticker. A stop was conducted, and the operator was also found to have an expired operator's license. The operator was issued a citation for no operator's license on person and given a warning for no ORV sticker.
- **CO Alex VanWagner and Sgt. Brian Bacon** located an illegal ground blind and a bait that was in the no baiting CWD zone. Later that afternoon the blind was checked, and contact was made with the hunter. When advised he was in a no baiting area, he stated "Yeah I know". A citation was issued for hunting deer over bait in closed area. Warning was issued for no identification on the ground blind.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** contacted a vehicle on a back road while on patrol in Iron County. The driver stated he was out grouse hunting but did not have any luck in the snowy conditions. The CO observed two shotgun cases in the front passenger seat of the truck while speaking with the subject, one of which was unzipped with a double barrel 12 gauge in it. Upon further investigation, there were two shotgun shells loaded in the chambers of the firearm and a citation was issued for uncased/loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.
- **CO Shannon Wicklund** presented at a career class at North Central Highschool in Menominee County. This class is an opportunity for students to learn about different career paths available in the area. CO Wicklund taught students about the Conservation Officer career as well as other job paths available through the DNR.
- **CO Anna Viau** assisted Crystal Falls Police department and Aspirus EMS with a medical call of a woman who was unresponsive but breathing in Crystal Falls. The woman regained consciousness before being taken to the hospital by EMS.
- **CO Jeremy Sergey** responded to a complaint of a dog caught in a leg hold trap. The dog was not injured and was safely removed from the trap. CO Sergey checked the trap and determined it was legally set.
- **CO Jeremy Sergey** served a PR Bond warrant on a case involving an illegally harvested black bear. The subject was investigated earlier this season after harvesting a bear in the wrong bear management unit.

- **COs Jackson Kelly, Cody Smith, John Kamps and PCO Alex Bourgeois** worked a group patrol with a grouse decoy in Baraga County. It wasn't long before a vehicle stopped, and the passenger pointed a 20-gauge shotgun out the window. The subject was stopped before pulling the trigger and the shotgun was found to be loaded. The subject was issued a ticket for the loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.
- **CO John Kamps and PCO Alex Bourgeois** received numerous complaints of trash being dumped at many different locations. The COs were able to develop a suspect and an interview was conducted. After multiple denials, a full confession was obtained by PCO Bourgeois for dumping the trash at all locations. The suspect received a citation for litter and was sent to pick up their trash.
- **CO John Kamps and PCO Alex Bourgeois** stopped two ORVs for driving recklessly and for operating an ORV within the Marquette City limits. Upon the stop, it was also determined that one of the ORVs failed to have registration and one of the individuals was not wearing a Department of Transportation approved helmet. Citations were issued to both subjects.

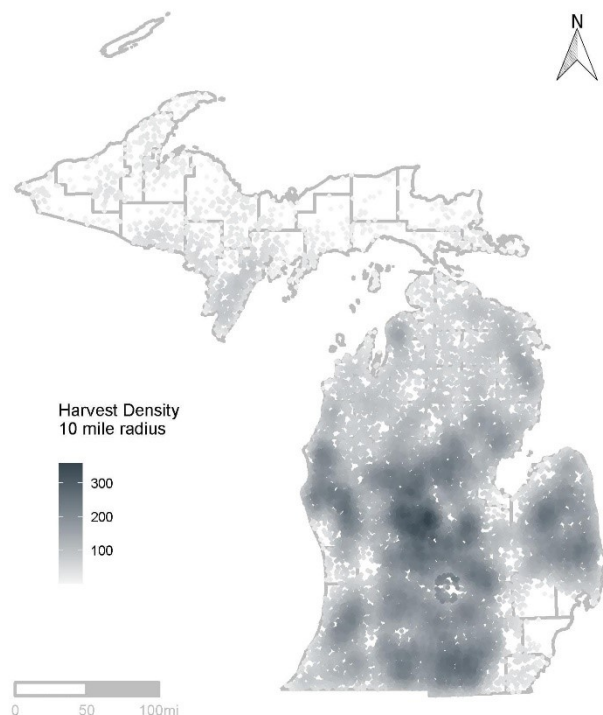
Wildlife Division: Joe Sage, Biologist-Escanaba

- **Deer Season Update:** Hunters are reporting that conditions this season have been generally good, although variable, with temperatures ranging from the single digits to highs in the low 50's. Snow cover has also been variable across the western UP, with some areas reporting no snow, and some reporting several inches on the ground. Hunters are reporting far fewer shots heard during firearm season than in past years, and although many hunters are reporting good deer numbers from their game cameras, good shooting opportunities are reported to be down. However, The Mackinac Bridge Authority's web site reports the deer count is up slightly from 2021. Deer that have been harvested thus far are demonstrating good body weights and average to above average antler development. As usual, deer coming into check stations are mostly in the 2.5-3.5 age classes.

Michigan's first year of mandatory harvest reporting for deer hunters appears to be going well so far. Most hunters are suggesting that harvest reporting is fairly simple, though some tweaks to the system could improve reporting for next year. The biggest complaint has been in the difficulty of reporting within the 72-hour required period in areas of poor cell phone coverage, followed by issues with the mapping component within the reporting system. Staff in our customer service centers are assisting many hunters who have difficulty with web reporting, both in person or by phone.

2022 Deer Harvest Density (Nov 15 thru Nov 16 @11AM)

- **Deer Harvest Summary:** This year's mandatory harvest reporting is already providing substantial data, giving us an unprecedented level of detail into the specifics of Michigan's deer harvest. As of this writing (11-27-22):
 - 238,437 harvested deer have been reported statewide through all deer seasons.
 - 18,417 harvested deer have been reported from the upper peninsula through all deer seasons (14,120 antlered, 4,297 antlerless).
 - As expected, the bulk of the harvest has occurred during firearm season in the UP, with 15,432 reported harvests (12,034 antlered, 3,398 antlerless).
 - The top 3 counties in the UP for harvest numbers through all seasons are: Menominee (4,553 total reported



harvests), Delta (3,004 total reported harvests), and Iron (1,955 total reported harvests).

- The location specific nature of our harvest reporting system allows us to produce a heat map of harvest density throughout the state. The most recent available heat map is attached to this report.

- **UP Surveillance for CWD:** The Upper Peninsula CWD sampling strategy is to focus efforts on the U.P. core surveillance area during 2022-2023 (see attached map). Additionally, we will continue targeted surveillance of individual symptomatic deer reported by the public across the entire U.P. region. Further information on CWD, sample submission options for hunters, and sample submission sites can be found at the following webpage: <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/wildlife/cwd/hunters>

During last year's surveillance (2021), a total of 340 samples were submitted from the UP CWD Core Surveillance Area, with 0 positives reported. In 2022, our surveillance goals are 1,348 for the UP Core Surveillance Area, to date we have tested 155 samples, with 0 reported positives.

