



Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: September 2021 (Information current as of 9/17/2021)

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

Upper Peninsula Field Deputy Update – Stacy Haughey



THANK YOU!

A special thank you to Council Members Jim Baker (WUPCAC) and Tony Wright (EUPCAC) who volunteered this year at the DNR Pocket Park during the UP State

Fair. They helped to create long-lasting memories for both themselves and for the kids at the Archery Range (Jim) and Fire Towner (Tony). Thank you both for taking time out of your day & summer to help kids enjoy our wonderful natural resources! And thank you too to WUPCAC Chair Jim Lorenson for stopping by that week to see first-hand the enjoyment had by all our visitors!

-Kristi & Jo Ann, Co-Coordinator of the DNR Pocket/UP State Fair



Jim Baker at the Archery Range

September NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met in Lansing on September 16, 2021. The commission approved three fisheries orders:

- [Fisheries Order 248](#) on possession limits for fish.
- [Fisheries Order 253](#) on trout and salmon regulations for the Great Lakes and connecting waters.
- [Fisheries Order 254](#) on trout and salmon regulations on inland lakes.

The commission tabled four other orders that had been slated for action today. The commission is considering amendments to three of the orders. All will be considered for approval at next month's meeting:

- [Fisheries Order 200](#) on trout and salmon regulations on inland rivers and streams.
- [Fisheries Order 206](#) on special regulations for warmwater species on select waters.
- [Fisheries Order 219](#) on bow, spear and crossbow fishing regulations.
- [Fisheries Order 252](#) on statewide regulations for Lake Whitefish, Round Whitefish, Cisco, Rainbow Smelt and Arctic Grayling.

Also today, Director Dan Eichinger approved:

- Four land transactions. [Details of those transactions can be found in the NRC agenda online.](#)
- [The results of the July 29 Oil and gas lease auction](#), which raised more than \$276,000 for the State Parks Endowment Fund.

- [State land review recommendations for Antrim, Arenac, Grand Traverse, Hillsdale, Iosco, Iron, Kalamazoo, Luce, Ontonagon and VanBuren counties.](#) The review of state-managed public lands in these counties was part of the revision of the state's Managed Public Land Strategy, aimed in part at identifying parcels of land that might be isolated from other public lands and might be of little conservation and recreational value. Income from sale of such parcels can allow the department to acquire other land that is surrounded by state-managed public land and might have greater value. The review is being conducted 10 counties at a time. This is the second group of counties reviewed.

The director announced his intent to sign – but has not yet signed -- [a land use order that will allow the DNR to restrict access on Great Lakes beaches in defined conditions](#), including on red flag days when swimming is especially dangerous. Following public comment, the original order was revised to allow board sport enthusiasts to continue to access the water even when restrictions for swimmers are in place.

Committee of the Whole, Director's Report

Director Eichinger introduced Wildlife Chief Jared Duquette, who joined the department in late November 2020 and today was able to attend his first NRC meeting in person following a long stretch of virtual meetings and after recently moving to the Lansing area.

Seth Herbst of the Fisheries Division presented information about fisheries orders that will be before the commission for action at the October meeting:

- [Fisheries Order 210 on designated trout streams](#) would remove the trout stream designation from Devils Creek and its tributaries in Menominee County because the habitat is no longer suitable for trout.
- [Fisheries Order 215 on statewide regulations for select warmwater species](#) would remove the 13-inch minimum size limit for walleye in Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River – and raise it to 15 inches -- to make these regulations consistent with walleye minimum size limits statewide.
- [Fisheries Order 216 on the taking of minnows for commercial purposes](#) would allow baitfish harvest from waters previously considered fish health risks. Since baitfish harvest restrictions were put in place in 2011 to prevent the spread of Koi Herpes Virus among fish species, studies have shown that KHV does not affect native species. The proposed change would remove these restrictions from Silver Lake and its tributaries in Oceana County and Kent Lake, including Huron River, upstream to Hubell Millpond dam in Oakland and Livingston Counties.
- [Fisheries Order 226 on hook and line restrictions during walleye spawning runs](#) which would restore protections for walleye between Holloway Dam and the Mott Dam on the Flint River.

At the beginning of today's meeting, Commission Chair Carol Rose took a few minutes to recognize the life and work of Mike Lashbrook, an NRC commissioner [who died Sept. 4](#). In Commissioner Lashbrook's honor, his name plate remained at the commission table today along with a vase of flowers.

How to Participate in the NRC Meetings

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

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

There was no legislative update this month.

If you would like to learn more any current or past legislative bills, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at 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.

- September -- UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting–Escanaba (engagement via direct mail)
- September 14 Forest Management Comment Period–Newberry Unit (call 906–291–0120 for info)
- September 16 Natural Resources Commission Meeting (call 517–599–1067 for info)
- September 22 Western UP Citizens’ Advisory Council Meeting (call 906–226–1330 for info)
- September 22 Equine Trails Subcommittee (Contact: Annalisa Centofanti, 517–331–6219)
- September 23 UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting–Shingleton (TBD)
- September 24 Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council (Contact: Kimberley Korbecki, 517–284–5876)
- September 28 UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting–Sault Ste Marie (TBD)
- September 28 UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting–Baraga/Bergland, 3:00pm (TBD)
- September 29 Lake Superior Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee (Contact: Patrick Hanchin, 231–330–5290)
- September 30 Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup (Contact: Annalisa Centofanti, 517–331–6219)
- October 5 Forest Compartment Review–Sault Ste. Marie Unit (call 906–875–1039 for info)
- October 6 Michigan Board of Foresters (Contact: Brenda Haskill, 989–370–9557)
- October 7 Michigan State Waterways Commission (Contact: Michelle Wieber, 517–285–0747)
- October 12 Forest Compartment Review–Gwinn Unit (call 906–346–9201 for info)
- October 13 Michigan State Parks Advisory Council (Contact: Barbara Graves, 517–284–6135)
- October 14 Forest Compartment Review–Shingleton Unit (call 906–420–1645 for info)
- October 14 Forest Management Advisory Committee (Contact: Kimberley Korbecki, 517–284–5876)
- October 14 Natural Resources Commission (Contact: Victoria Lischalk, 517–599–1067)
- October 14 Northern Inland Lakes Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee (Contact: 231–340–0276)
- October 19 Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council (call 906–226–1331)
- October 21 Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup (Annalisa Centofanti, 517–331–6219)
- October 22 Michigan Wildlife Council (Contact: Pam Vance, 517–284–6056)
- October 22 Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council (Contact: Kimberley Korbecki, 517–284–5876)
- October 26 Forest Compartment Review–Newberry Unit (call 906–291–0120 for info)
- October 27 Off–road Vehicle Advisory Committee (Contact: Jessica Holley, 517–331–3790)
- October 28 Forest Compartment Review–Crystal Falls Unit (call 906–875–6622 for info)

U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities

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

- September 16 Michigan History Museum – Michigan Freedom Trail Commission Virtual Program: The Crosswhite and Robert Cromwell Cases
- September 18 Van Riper State Park – Harvest Festival (campers only)
- Sept 19–25 Michigan Trails Week
- September 23 Michigan History Museum – Michigan Freedom Trail Commission Virtual Program: The Kentucky Raid and John Felix White
- September 25 Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Harvest Festival (campers only)
- September 25 Van Riper State Park – Harvest Festival (campers only)

- September 25 Michigan History Museum – Michigan Anishinaabe Heritage Day
- September 26 Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Night Sky Photography Workshop
- September 30 Michigan History Museum – Michigan Freedom Trail Commission Virtual Program: The Impact of the 1847 MI Slave Rescues and the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act
- October 2 Michigan History Museum – Michigan Freedom Trail Commission Heritage Gathering
- October 2 Fayette Historic State Park – 16th Annual Fayette Fall Fest (campers only)
- October 8–10 Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center – Bush Craft, Wild Mushroom and Wild Edibles Clinic
- October 23 Michigan History Museum – 2021 Michigan Archaeology Day
- October 24 Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Night Sky Photography Workshop

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- Environmental education, tree stand safety, small game opener (9/14/21)
- Grab your fall turkey license (9/14/21)
- DNR honored for investigation of illegal toxic chemical dumping by Flint company (9/14/21)
- Find new trails, challenge yourself during Michigan Trails Week (9/13/21)
- NotMISpecies webinars focus on phragmites and woody invasives (9/13/21)
- Showcasing the DNR: September when she comes (9/10/21)
- Portions of Bond Falls Scenic Site closed Sept. 13–14 for volunteer workday (9/9/21)
- Small game hunting opener is Sept. 15 (9/9/21)
- Trails Week Challenge, Underground Railroad Heritage Gathering (9/9/21)
- New pedestrian bridge set in place at Lower Tahquamenon Falls in Chippewa County (9/8/21)
- DNR releases 2021 deer hunting preview (9/8/21)
- Liberty Hunt opener, fall raptor migration, walleye stocking (9/8/21)
- Spend opening day at Michigan's GEMS (9/8/21)
- 2021 bear hunting season begins today (9/8/21)
- DNR postpones full reopening of some facilities until October (9/2/21)
- West Nile virus survey in ruffed grouse begins third study year (9/2/21)
- Showcasing the DNR: Highlighting diversity in the ranks of the CCC (9/2/21)
- \$3.6 million in grants available to target invasive species in Michigan (9/1/21)

Eastern UPCAC Update

The **Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council** met on August 10th virtually with 32 in attendance including Council members, DNR staff, legislative representatives, and registered public attendees. The following topics were included on the agenda and discussed:

- DNR Division Reports by staff
- Wolf Management Advisory Council Update
- Approval of Potential Revisions to EUPCAC Bylaws (approved unanimously)
- Summer Youth Program for Parks & Recreation Division
- Antlerless Application Process
- Subcommittee Reports: Fisheries and Policy Impact (no reports)
- Public Comments: Several public comments were heard from Mr. David Cords of Livonia/Paradise (Wolf Management Advisory Council, EUPAC Membership, Deer), Mr. Stephen Dey of Moran (Wolves), Mr. George Lindquist of Marquette (Wolf Management Advisory Council), and Mr. Don Bailey of McMillan Township (Wolves).
- Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on October 19th (location or virtual TBD).

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

Division Updates

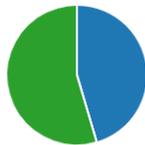
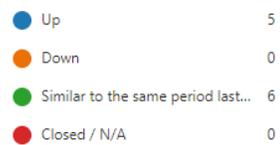
Law Enforcement Division (LED): Lt. Ryan Aho, District 1 Law Supervisor

- **CO Brian Lasanen and PCO Phil Helminen** conducted a patrol near the mouth of the Gratiot River area for illegal ORV activity. This area has received complaints of illegal ORV operation on the beach area and in the river. As the COs were parked in the parking area near the beach, the COs observed a side-by-side operating on the beach. The operator approached the river and crossed through the river and over to where the COs were parked. Contact was made with the operator and a citation was issued for the illegal ORV operation.
- **CO Brian Lasanen and PCO Phil Helminen** were checking anglers fishing off the public docks along the Portage Canal in Houghton. While speaking with two anglers, the COs discovered the anglers had not purchased fishing licenses. The subjects gave many excuses as to why they hadn't purchased fishing licenses for 2021. Enforcement action was taken for not purchasing fishing licenses.
- **COs Ethen Mapes and Byron Parks** responded to an ORV accident which occurred on private property. Once on scene, COs Mapes and Parks were led to two individuals at the bottom of a ravine where the two were on the ground. One subject suffered a broken leg and the other complained of lower back pain. Both subjects had to be carried out of the ravine on backboards and were transported to Aspirus Ontonagon Hospital.
- **COs Ethen Mapes and Byron Parks** were following up on an ORV accident at Aspirus Ontonagon Hospital when they were notified of another ORV accident. The individuals who were involved in the accident had already made it to the emergency room and were being treated for lacerations to their hands. An interview of the subjects revealed that they had rolled a rental side-by-side seven times. Both riders were wearing seat belts.
- **CO Anna Viau** was launching her boat on a lake in western Iron County when she observed a jet ski pulling a person on a tube. There was only one person on the jet ski, so there was no spotter, a spotter is required when pulling a person behind a vessel. CO Viau quickly contacted the operator of the jet ski. She explained the safety issue of not having a spotter. The operator received a citation for the violation. While on marine patrol that day, CO Viau also gave several warnings for no fishing license in possession.
- **COs Shannon Kritz, Jared Ferguson, and PCO Alex VanWagner** taught the law portion at hunter's safety class in Menominee County.
- **COs Shannon Kritz, Jared Ferguson, and PCO Alex VanWagner** attended a hunter safety class at the Normenco Sportsman Club in Spalding, Menominee County. They provided instruction on the law portion of hunter education and answered questions pertaining to the current hunting guide.
- **CO Shannon Kritz** was checking anglers coming off the Cedar River. CO Kritz contacted one boat who reported catching some small bass and keeping one Northern pike. When CO Kritz asked the anglers how long the Northern pike was, neither angler could tell her. CO Kritz measured the pike which turned out to be short of the 24 inch requirement. The angler who caught the pike explained that he was not aware of how long pike needed to be since he was not a Michigan resident. CO Kritz educated the angler on the importance of knowing fishing regulations on the body of water that is being fished and issued a citation for possessing an undersized Northern pike.
- **CO Shannon Kritz** received a complaint from an ORV user who reported that he was using a two-track on state land and encountered sharpened rebar sticking out of the ground. Thankfully, the ORV user was able to see the rebar before he went over it. CO Kritz responded to the area and observed that the state land was posted as private property with a chain across the two-track. ORVs had been going around the chain and that is where four pieces of sharp rebar were sticking out of the ground with the assumed intention of flattening tires of the ORVs. CO Kritz developed a suspect by locating a nearby piece of private property. CO Kritz interviewed the landowner who claimed that he thought he was at his property line when he posted the property. The landowner admitted to placing the rebar in the ground because he was frustrated with ORV trespassers going onto his property. CO Kritz informed the landowner that he was approximately 360 feet away from the private property line and discussed how dangerous the consequences of putting the rebar into the ground could have been. A report will be submitted to the prosecutor for the violations.

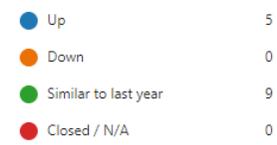
- **CO Jared Ferguson and PCO Alex VanWagner** assisted **Cpl. Brett DeLonge and Kevin Postma** of the Great Lakes Enforcement Unit in the attempt to locate a fishing net found in the Marquette Harbor. The net was located by an angler whose gear tangled in it. The net was unable to be located from the GPS points that were given.
- **CO Jared Ferguson and PCO Alex VanWagner** worked marine patrol and many anglers were contacted on Upper Peavy Dam in Iron County. CO Ferguson and PCO VanWagner approached a black Lund with one fisherman. Upon contacting the subject, he was actively fishing with four lines. Further investigation showed he did not have a fire extinguisher or a throwable PFD on his boat. He also did not have his fishing license in possession. The subject was cited for fishing with too many lines and no fire extinguisher. He was issued verbal warnings for not having a throwable PFD or his license in possession. Throughout the day, multiple other verbal warnings were issued for not having throwable PFD's, no license in possession, and improper MC numbers.
- **CO Jared Ferguson and PCO Alex VanWagner** attended a trapper's education class at Kingsford Middle School. Trapper ethics and laws pertaining to trapping were discussed with the students.
- **COs Jeremy Sergey and Dave Miller and Sgt. Mark Leadman** conducted a group ORV patrol with the Marquette County Sheriff's Office. The patrol focused on an area with frequent complaints of ORVs not stopping at road crossings and dumping beer cans along the trail. Several contacts were made and almost all individuals obeyed the law. Only one warning was issued for going over the speed limit on the county road and one warning for failing to operate on the extreme right side of a roadway.
- **CO Jeremy Sergey** was patrolling Lake Levasseur during the early teal season and goose opener when he checked two individual's waterfowl hunting. CO Sergey noticed they had a box of steel shot along with two other boxes of bird shot. When the individuals un-loaded their shotguns, CO Sergey discovered they had lead shot shells loaded in their shotguns. Each subject was issued a citation for waterfowl hunting with toxic shot.

Parks & Recreation Division: Doug Rich, WUP District Supervisor

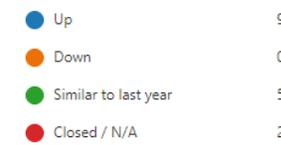
Camping



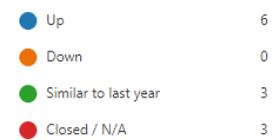
Boating Access Sites



Day Use



Overnight Lodging



Trails



CAMPING

Unit	Responses
Twin Lakes	We're seeing more first time tent campers
Porkies	The entire park has been at near full capacity nightly.
Fort Wilkins	Camping was very similar to last year. 98% occupied in July about 95% occupied in Aug. Our big waterline and transfer station project that was scheduled for summer of 2021, was put off till next year. Bids came in about 40% over budget. We are re-working some of the plans to hopefully help reduce the cost of the project.
Craig Lake	Camping numbers have been very high this FY and we are seeing record numbers.
Van Riper	Use is way up. This FY, we have seen over 15,000 camp nights. This is way up from the past 2 years.
Baraga	Camping revenue is up 194% over 2019 and was full nearly every night in July until early August, state forest campgrounds have also been busy, up approx. 16%.
Bewabic	Camping has busy, SFCG have been busy as well.
Baraga FO	Lifted and resurfaced road at Big Lake State Forest Campground.
McLain	Campground was 96% occupied in July and 97% in August.
Escanaba FO	Began preparing for Wells State Park Shoreline project.

OVERNIGHT LODGING

Unit	Responses
Little Presque Isle	Parking area improvements were completed, and the concrete pad was removed at the point by Escanaba Field Office. Cabin use has been through the roof this FY. The lifesaving station at the point still needs to be reinstalled by staff and we are projecting to complete that this fall.
Craig Lake	Again, use is very high and overnight lodging is through the roof.
Van Riper	Overnight lodging is also way up.
Wells	Lodging up 30% for this month
Baraga	Mini Cabin use is up slightly, around 8%.
McLain	Lodging was 90% occupied in July and 93% for August at McLain.

BOATING

Unit	Responses
Twin Lakes	Lake level is really low with the drought conditions
Lake Gogebic	Parking lot and road repairs were made as well as the launch ramp at Cisco Lake BAS in Gogebic County was replaced by Baraga Field Office.
Copper Harbor	Copper Harbor and Eagle Harbor construction projects are on schedule for next fall. Eagle Harbor Marina upgrade is still on schedule to begin summer of 2022 and as is the seawall repair project at Copper Harbor Marina.
Van Riper	New culverts were installed at the Brockey Lake BAS within the Van Riper unit by Escanaba Field Office in the last few weeks. This helps maintain access to both the BAS and the county road that extends beyond the access site.
Baraga	All BAS sites have been busy.
Bewabic	Sites have been busy, updated all BAS kiosk signage at 33 sites.
Baraga FO	Installed pit toilet at South Branch of Ontonagon River BAS, dredged Hoist Basin, spread gravel at East Shore BAS on Lake Gogebic and Eagle Harbor BAS, installed new ramp at Cisco Lake BAS, fixed parking lot and boat launch at Deer Lake SFCG.
McLain	Staff did some brush trimming at Boston Pond BAS.
Escanaba FO	Installed 3 culverts at Brockey Lake BAS, installed a large culvert within the Groveland Mine complex with FRD, replaced a vault toilet at Edey lake. Additionally, the paving project at Ford River was completed, and that site is now open for public use.

TRAILS

Unit	Responses
Porkies	The Iron Belle Iron River NCT trail bridge project is underway. Bridge abutments are poured, and timbers are being erected for the suspension bridge.
Lake Gogebic	Numerous repairs and improvements were made to the 3-mile foot trail, including boardwalk, bridge repairs, and the addition of gravel in various locations.
Fort Wilkins	There have been some trail MTB trail closures (not on state property) in the Copper Harbor area and as a result bike number seem a little lower this year
Little Presque Isle	Trail use has been very high within the Little Presque Isle area. There are 4 vehicle counters within various parking areas there and if the trajectory continues, the area will see over 1.25 million vehicles.
Craig Lake	Staff from Van Riper and the Lake Gogebic crew have been working on constructing the 2 pedestrian bridges along the NCT along the east side of Craig Lake State Park since the beginning of August. Work is going well, and the crew is doing a phenomenal job. We are projecting the crew will have this wrapped up in the coming weeks.
Bewabic	Lots of ORV use and heavy non-motorized trail use in the park and at Glidden Lake. Brushing was completed at Lake Mary Plains Pathway.
Baraga	ORV camping has been very prevalent. A group of 17 side by sides camped at the park for two weeks just to venture out on local trails daily. At one count in late July, there were 53 ORVs (ATV/Side by Sides) in the campground, not including those in the ORV staging area and already out on trails.
Baraga FO	Cleared blown down trees off trail in Marenisco.

DAY USE

Unit	Responses
McLain	August heat brought a lot of beach goers to McLain's Day Use.
Porkies	New road striping was painted from the Lake of the Clouds ticket booth to the scenic site parking lot. Presque Isle has been busy with parking lots full mid-week.
Copper Harbor	At the Lighthouse, we are set for a vendor to offer the historic lighthouse boat tours but waiting for the vendor to get their US Coast Guard Captains License, which is backlogged and have been waiting on for most of the summer. At this point we are hopeful tours can begin in summer of 2022.
Little Presque Isle	Use at the Little Presque Isle area has been very high.
Baraga	A memorial bench (donated) was installed in early July
Bond Falls	Day use is very high and passport sales are up, non-resident annual and dailies sales are exceeding all prior years.

Menominee River	Selling lots of NR dailies and annuals
Bewabic	Busy due to hot weather
Escanaba FO	Our staff completed the Presque Isle Wetmore landing parking lot in early July, removed the concrete at the point near little Presque Isle.

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

Unit	Responses
McLain	Tiny house project at McLain is finishing up nicely. Hired a new ranger for McLain and we are excited and happy to have him on our team. As Bear season is upon us McLain is preparing for our annual bear check station.
Porkies	Nicole Pepin who has been an interior ranger since 2018 is now the working out of class Park Supervisor. Since January 1, 2021, Staff have responded to 53 search and rescues. Also, engineering and upgrades to the triple chair at the ski hill is underway to allow us to fully load downhill. This is a major improvement for color season and other special events.
Lake Gogebic	The Lake Gogebic traveling construction crew began constructing and replacing to pedestrian bridges on the North Country Trail at Craig Lake State Park, with help from Van Riper staff. Significant progress has been made with the expectation to be completed by the early fall.
Van Riper	With the very high use we have seen, the STW staff has done a fantastic job this year to keep the park clean and well maintained for the visiting public. They have been able to work on a few additional projects between maintenance and the park really shines because of it.
Wells	Well's Friends group corn roast event was well attended.
Baraga	STWs are beginning to return to school. Staffing in the shoulder season is a challenge, but some applications have been received and interviews are in process. We have had more enforcement, incidents and EMS situations at the park and our outlying locations (BAS, Scenic Sites, and SFCG) with our increased use. MRS students completed their 8 weeks of work at the park. They helped stain and refurbish many picnic tables and routine grounds maintenance and tasks.
Bond Falls	Staff is preparing for a Michigan Cares for Tourism Volunteer event in September that will assist in repairs to the decking of the boardwalk and bridges, along with painting and brushing at the site. With the increased use at the site, there have been more medical / emergency situations and incidents, staff have done well with response and reporting.
Menominee River	We are having difficulty finding STWs for this site, so keeping the booth staffed daily is a challenge. We have only been able to staff the site three days a week.
Bewabic	Some STW staff leaving for the season, window and tuck-pointing projects in the historic beach house were completed. Stump grinding was done in the park.
Fort Wilkins	For the first time in many years our career staff positions are all filled. We hired a seasonal park ranger and a laborer this summer. Unfortunately, our summer workers were down again. Probably running at 65-70% of our compliment during the summer season, many of which have now left for the season. We have been part of the working group to seek alternative options in helping us hire our non-career staff.
District	The partnership with the Michigan National Guard 107 th Engineering Battalion out of Ishpeming has been heavy into planning for three work events. The National Guard will continue to make restoration efforts on the historic headquarters complex at the Porkies, install a new BAS on the Silver Lake Basin in Marquette County, and BAS road improvements and grading around Republic.

Fisheries Division: George Madison, Western Lake Superior Management Unit

The following are the western Upper Peninsula fisheries division highlights for the period of July 23-September 21, 2021, on behalf of the following Western UP Fisheries Division staff:

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

Fisheries Management Units

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

Staff have been conducting traditional summer field work which includes the following tasks:

- Lake and stream fisheries surveys
- Fisheries surveys of lakes that have populations of freshwater Cisco (herring) as part of a Great Lakes region-wide assessment of Cisco lakes.
- Inspection of Department owned dam structures.
- Lake sturgeon fisheries assessments.

- Lake association meetings, including a virtual public meeting to discuss walleye and northern pike regulations at Lake Gogebic.
- Muskellunge assessment in the Paint River
- Land use reviews of proposed timber management plans, metallic mineral exploration requests, and State land ownership locations.

Fish Production Unit (Dan Sampson)

Marquette State Fish Hatchery

- The Cherry Creek stabilization project has begun but the work within the stream will be delayed until late spring 2022 due to material supply problems. To reduce risk, we are going to wait until after spring stocking is finished to resume this portion of the project.
- Fish Culture:
 - The autumn portion of marking splake is finished. A team assembled by Cory Kovacs marked 96,000 with fin-clips in late August. These marked fish are destined for stocking at Keweenaw Bay, Munising, and Copper Harbor
 - The team is getting ready for lake trout spawning, which will begin in early October, and brook trout spawning, which starts in mid-October.

Thompson State Fish Hatchery

- A few minor details are still being addressed with the cool-water expansion and upgrades for the cold-water facility. In the first week of September, some final adjustments and additional staff training will happen for the automated Norcan feeding system. This cutting-edge system, nicknamed a “Gatling Gun”, uses a series of tubes to automatically deliver feed from a central point, using a system of rotary wheels to direct the feed to the right location. It’s very interesting to watch in action and is worth the trip to Thompson SFH to see.
- Fish Culture:
 - Steelhead for spring 2022 stocking are being graded in preparation to being mass-marked in September and moved to the production raceways for final grow-out.
 - Muskellunge were transferred from Wolf Lake SFH in Mid-August and are looking very good.

Forest Resources Division: Tom Seablom, Western UP District Supervisor

- Field work on the 2023 YOE Inventory has been completed. Due to the ongoing pandemic the division will be hold public meetings in a virtual format. Open House comment periods for the Crystal Falls Unit ends September 16th and September 21st for the Gwinn Unit. Open House Comment Periods and Compartment Review schedules for other units are posted online along with other state forest inventory information at Michigan.Gov/Forestry. Field work for the 2024 YOE Inventory season will start in October.
- As of September 10th, 317 timber sale contracts are open WUP Wide. This represents 838,036 cords of timber on 481,010 acres, valued at approximately \$33.3 million. Included in this are 15 GNA sales representing 50,476 cords of timber on 3,633 acres, valued at approximately \$2.2 million.
- WUP units report 26 Active Timber Sales in the WUP totaling about 3,637, acres. Units report High demand for hardwood sawlogs. Hardwood pulp remains steady. Softwood pulp is moving slower. Most unit report sales are receiving bids at of just above the minimum bid prices.
- Fire Officers are working on several road maintenance and improvement projects including the Otter Siding Road and culvert replacements in the Groveland Mine area. Staff have also been trenching and roller chopping sites in preparation for planting.
- Fire activity has been low over the past few months. The fire outlook remains low with periotic rain in the forecast. Several U.P. staff are on out of state fire assignments in Minnesota, Montana, and Idaho.

- The Commercial Forest Program is hold hearings for public input on new applications and removals from the program. For more information on the Commercial Forest Program go to Michigan.Gov/Commercialforest
- The forest health program continues to monitor and treat oak wilt infections where appropriate in Iron, Dickinson and Menominee counties, and well as raise awareness of oak wilt across the U.P., where oak wilt has not yet been detected. Oak wilt continues to have a big impact in oak stands along the Wisconsin border.

Public Information: John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer

- Recently, I worked with Brad Parsons, the DNR videographer from Lansing, on documenting the installation of a new 142-foot-long pedestrian bridge at the Lower Tahquamenon Falls. The four sections of the bridge, each weighing about 7,000 pounds, were set into place with the help of a helicopter. The 6-foot-wide structure will allow for unprecedented access to the island for all park visitors. Brad and I worked ahead to have a same day news release issued that included some of our video and photos. We are working to put together a couple of DNR videos on the effort, including one highlighting improved accessibility at Tahquamenon Falls. Steps were taken by the Parks and Recreation Division to ensure the fabricated bridge is not visible from the main viewing platform at the Lower Falls. Over the next few years, park staff will monitor use of the paddle boats to the island to gauge their continued popularity.
- The DNR’s Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program held its first fall weekend event at the U.P. Bible Camp in Little Lake. Sixty women from a wide range of destinations came to experience outdoor activities in a non-competitive camp atmosphere. I interviewed several participants and shot video and photos throughout the weekend for a future video being produced to introduce the program to the public. A videographer from the television program Wardens and WLUC-TV6’s Discovering was on hand to film upcoming segments for those two shows. The clips will be available on the BOW webpage at www.Michigan.gov/BOW.
- The new season of “Ask the DNR” begins at 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30 on WNMU-TV13. Panelists scheduled to appear include Brian Roell, wildlife biologist, Marquette, Cody Smith, conservation officer, Baraga County, Darren Kramer, fisheries biologist, Escanaba and Simeon Wright, forest health specialist, Sault Ste. Marie.
- Our Showcasing the DNR feature story series continues each Thursday. To see the story archive visit www.Michigan.gov/DNRStories. Please send story ideas and offers to contribute to the increasingly popular statewide series to me at pepinj@michigan.gov.

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

Region: Central UP Projects / Rob Katona, Trail Specialist

Project Name: Foster City Bridge
Project Description: Bridge replacement designated ORV/Snowmobile multi-use Rail-Trail, Dickinson County
Anticipated Completion: September 2021
Fourth Quarter Update: Project is scheduled to be completed October 1.

Project Name: Sturgeon River Bridge
Project Description: Bridge rehab Snowmobile Trail 2, Dickinson County on state-owned Rail-Trail
Fourth Quarter Update: Bridge will be closed for 2021-22 snowmobile season looking into possible reroutes.

Project Name: Nahma Grade Multi-Use Trail
Project Description: Design and construction 3.7-mile multi-use Rail-Trail in Delta County work includes clearing, surfacing and culvert/bridge installation.
Fourth Quarter Update: Design for two main water crossings is nearly 90% the remainder of the grade clearing and minor culvert work is in the planning stages. Additional funding is necessary for both phases of the project

Project Name: Clowry Grade
Project Description: Design and rehab/construction of 7 bridges on this designated ORV/snowmobile multi-use Rail-Trail in Marquette County
Fourth Quarter Update: Design is nearing 90% and repairs to bridge #6 is moving forward.

Project Name: Cedar River Pathway Improvements
Project Description: Improve 18 low wet areas along pathway with culverts and raised trail construction
Anticipated Completion: September 30, 2021
Fourth Quarter Update: Work has begun with project expected to be completed before the end of September.

Project Name: Thunder Valley Trail Development
Project Description: Complete construction on three additional loops and connector
Anticipated Completion: September 30, 2021
Fourth Quarter Update: Contractor did not complete any work his contract will be terminated, and we will need to readvertise this fall. Additional work is contingent on new contractor availability and interest in the project.

Project Name: Days River Pathway Improvements
Project Description: Remove damaged board walks and construct raised trail with culverts in low areas
Anticipated Completion: September 30, 2021
Fourth Quarter Update: Project is complete and awaiting final inspection.

Project Name: LPI Trail and Parking Improvements
Project Description: Trail repairs and realign entrance to Beagle Club Trailhead
Anticipated Completion: September 30, 2021
Fourth Quarter Update: Pathway work has started with completion expected by the end of this month.

Project Name: Forest Islands Repairs and Restoration
Project Description: Repair damaged board walks and damage in low wet areas on the Forest Islands ORV Trail/Route in Menominee and Delta Counties
Anticipated Completion: Summer 2021 if contractor is compliant
Fourth Quarter Update: Still working out default items with AG and DTMB. Project will have to be readvertised this winter if additional funds can be secured.

Project Name: Felch Grade Surface Improvements
Project Description: Gravel, grading and culvert repairs on Felch Grade in Menominee and Dickinson Counties
Anticipated Completion: Summer 2021
Fourth Quarter Update: Project complete.

Project Name: Bass Lake Restoration
Project Description: Replace decking and perform reroutes around eroded areas
Anticipated Completion: September 30, 2021
Second Quarter Update: Could not find interested contractors will try again for FY22 when some have better availability.

Project Name: Gwinn-Arnold Improvements and Restoration
Project Description: Repair large holes replace culverts and surfacing on this ORV route in Marquette County
Anticipated Completion: September 30, 2021
Third Quarter Update: Project complete.

Project Name: West Marquette County ORV Routes Improvements
Project Description Repair large holes replace culverts and surfacing on multiple ORV routes in western Marquette County
Anticipated Completion: September 30, 2021
Fourth Quarter Update: Project still not complete but contractor must complete by end of September.

Project Name: Escanaba-Felch ORV A Route Improvements
Project Description: Minor bridge railing and decking repairs replace culverts and surfacing
Anticipated Completion: September 30, 2021
Fourth Quarter Update: Surfacing work is complete and bridge repairs are nearly complete as well.

Project Name: Norway Rock Motorcycle Trail Proposal
Project Description: New single-track construction in Dickinson County adjacent to the Norway ORV trail
Fourth Quarter Update: Wildlife Division denied; no further progress will occur without their support.

Project Name: Days River Pathway Expansion Proposal
Project Description: 12.7 miles of single-track trail construction for primarily mountain biking and hiking adjacent to the existing Days River Pathway in Delta County
Fourth Quarter Update: Design and construction still planned for FY22.

Region: Western UP Projects / Jeff Kakuk, Trail Specialist

Project Name: Menominee River Bridge	Project Name: Stateline Trail Wakefield Extension	Project Name: Little Carp Trestle	Project Name: Swedetown-Calumet trail capping
Description: Bridge Deck Rehabilitation and abutment repairs on this 392' interstate trail bridge	Description: Bridge and Culvert replacements to extend this multi-use trail 5 miles into Wakefield, MI The stateline trail is nearly 100 miles long along the Wisconsin border.	Description: Phase 3 includes the deck replacement and bank armor of this 230' trestle	Description: Defining trail corridor in town with an ADA trail mix gravel. 1.1 mile project
Trail Use: Multi-use	Trail Use: Multi-use	Trail Use: Multi-use	Trail Use: Multi-use
Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion: 7/2021
Q4 Update: Project is complete and trail opened on August 2nd. Phase 2 work on abutments scheduled for summer 2022.	Q4 Update: Work is nearly complete with only a few punch list items to complete.	Q4 Update: Bridge Deck replacement work began 9-7-21.	Q4 Update: Project completed August 12th.

Project Name: Freda Grade – 2018 Flood Repairs	Project Name: Site OHM 18 - Culvert Replacement	Project Name: WUP culvert failure site design	Project Name: Site BD257 – culvert replacement and trail improvements
Description: Repairs to FEMA supported 2018 flood damage. 3 Culverts and 10 surface erosion sites.	Description: Replacement of a failed culvert on the Lake Linden Grade. This site is between Lake Linden and Calumet.	Description: Six culvert sites failing in 2019. 3 – Sidnaw -Bergland grade 1 – Bill Nicholls grade 2 – Ontonagon-Rockland Grade	Description: Raise section of trail and replace failed culvert. Project also includes cleaning of downstream channel.
Trail Use: Multi-use	Trail Use: Multi-use	Trail Use: Multi-use	Trail Use: Multi-use
Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion: unknown	Anticipated Completion: 7/2021
Q4 Update: No additional updates	Q4 Update: Project began 9-7-21	Q4 Update: Kenton site remains a failure concern.	Q4 Update: Completed in Q2

Project Name: Ripley	Project Name: Salmon-Trout Bridge Load Rating	Project Name: WUP Bridge Load Rating Assessment	Project Name: BN101 Culvert Replacement
Description: Adjacent property site contamination. Trail use impacted. Temporary trail reroute in place	Description: Wood deck has rotted, and original load rating is below current needs. This project will review structure and provide options for repair	Description: Provide an assessment of 5 large bridges (3 on Bill Nicholls, 2 on Sidnaw Bergland) to provide a load rating to post.	Description: Culvert collapse on Bill Nicholls trail south ast of Toivola due to metal culvert collapse.
Trail Use: Multi-use	Trail Use: Multi-use	Trail Use: Multi-use	Trail Use: Multi-use
Anticipated Completion: Pending EPA cleanup/capping	Anticipated Completion: Summer 2021	Anticipated Completion: Summer 2021	Anticipated Completion: Fall 2021
Q4 Update: DNR trail capping project has been awarded. EPA work is complete.	Q4 Update: Project closed. Bridge will require a new wooden deck for safe travel. Bridge is posted as closed.	Q4 Update: Final project packet should be available this quarter.	Q4 Update: Still pending construction.

Wildlife Division: Bill Scullon, Acting UP Regional Wildlife Supervisor

- **Waterfowl, Bear, Liberty (Disabled Veteran and youth deer) Seasons Open:** September 1st the goose season opened and runs to December 16 with a daily bag limit of 5. Local production was good this year and, in many areas, hunters are reporting success. Early teal season opened September 1st as well and run through September 16 statewide with a daily bag limit of 6 teal per day. Teal opportunities are difficult to find but some hunters encountered by Conservation Officers reported some success. Bear season opened September 8th for bait hunters only. Hound hunters can start with the second hunt period September 13th and the third hunt starts September 25th. All bear seasons end by October 26. Bear hunter report good success with bear respond well to bait stations as natural soft mast availability is lacking in many areas due to drought conditions. The Liberty hunt was September 11 and 12th. As is typical few deer have been reported being taken by veterans (100% disabled) and youths despite better deer numbers this year. Over time this have proven to be more a function of low participation rates rather than deer numbers.
- **Pending Openers:** Grouse and turkey seasons open September 15th and run through November 14th. Leftover fall turkey tags are sold out. Woodcock season opens September 15th and runs to October 29th with a daily bag limit of 3 timberdoodles. Youth duck season (youths under 16 years if age) is September 18 - 19th. Regular Duck season opens September 25 and runs through November 21 with a two-day split on November 27 and 28th. The daily bag limit is 6

ducks. Raccoon trapping season opens October 1st and is the first trapping season to open in the fall. Regular Archery deer season opens October 1 and runs through November 14th. All UP 2000 (one thousand per DMU) access permits for DMU's 352 (west UP) and 351 (east UP) have been sold. Hunters are reminded that to antlerless hunt in those units with they need a valid access permit and a universal antlerless license. One access permit per universal license is required.

- **UP Surveillance for CWD (see handout at end of this document)**: The Upper Peninsula CWD sampling strategy is to focus efforts on the U.P. core surveillance area. This will include collecting samples from agricultural producers during the summer crop damage season, from hunter harvested deer during the fall hunting seasons, and from samples gathered from commercial meat processors. Our goal for the number of samples we aim to obtain from the U.P. core surveillance area is 1,524. Achieving this remaining sampling goal combined with data from previous year sampling efforts will give us the highest possible confidence in determining if CWD is present within free ranging deer in the U.P. core surveillance area. Additionally, we will continue targeted surveillance of individual symptomatic deer reported by the public across the entire U.P. region.

For the 2021 deer hunting season, we will continue to ask for hunters to submit CWD samples from deer harvested within the U.P. core surveillance area in parts of Dickinson, Menominee and Delta Counties. In order to prioritize our limited DNR resources and focus our efforts we will not accept deer samples from outside the core area unless they are symptomatic. Like last year, hunters outside the core area who would like to have their deer tested should use a USDA-approved lab for CWD testing.

Deer Check Stations and drop box / freezers close to the U.P. core surveillance area: The Norway Field Office, Crystal Falls Field Office, and Escanaba Customer Service Centers deer check sites will be open to collect samples. Additionally, drop box freezers will be used at several other locations to provide hunters the opportunity to submit samples. A complete listing of all deer check stations, drop box / freezer locations, and hours will be available at Michigan.gov/Deer Check as we approach the fall hunting seasons.

Meat Processor Disease Sampling Cooperative Program: The DNR has identified several commercial meat processors within and close to the U.P. core surveillance area to partner with to achieve additional CWD sampling goals. Hunters will be able to submit CWD samples when dropping their deer off to participating meat processors. The rationale for this approach is that deer many hunters take to their deer directly to meat processor and don't visit DNR check stations. Partnering with meat processors will enable the DNR to assess a significant portion of the harvest that was previously missed.

- **Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative Grants:** 12 UP organization were awarded DHPI grants in March and partners are wrapping up grant projects by September 30th (end of the State fiscal year). These grants will produce positive impacts on 844 acres in Menominee, Marquette, Alger, Gogebic, Iron, Baraga, Ontonagon, Gogebic, Schoolcraft, and Mackinac counties. The planned match for the 12 grants is valued in excess of \$123,930 (well in excess of the required 25 percent) further expanding the impact of the projects. Now in its thirteenth year, the initiative is supported by the state's Deer Range Improvement Program, which is funded by a portion of deer hunting license revenue. With this year's crop of projects, over \$750,000 has been made available to U.P. partners for 95 projects to improve deer habitat. The value in partner match over the years has exceeded half a million dollars. The reach of the program has been to hundreds of landowners, over several thousand acres, involving all of the U.P.'s 15 counties.
- **Wildlife Habitat:** UPR staff are wrapping up many habitat plantings and habitat improvement projects across the region. Staff are putting the final touches on hunter walking trails and GEMS trail maintenance and various wildlife openings to benefit deer, turkey, bear, grouse, etc. Baraga staff are also working flood more units at the Sturgeon River Sloughs using the newly installed pump station to improve conditions for migrating waterfowl.

Upper Peninsula Region 2021 CWD Sampling Strategy

The DNR believes that CWD poses a real threat to the long-term health of Michigan's deer herd and is committed to learning all we can about the disease's presence in Michigan. Statewide we are seeking samples from areas where we need more information about the disease and those places where the disease has the potential to spread to new regions in the state. We feel we have an understanding of where the disease is currently, but we need new information from the edges of known statewide CWD presence. It is worth noting that Michigan will likely test more deer for disease than most states in the country.

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“Upper Peninsula CWD Core Surveillance Area Map” depicts the boundary of the Core CWD Surveillance Area, which includes at the junction of US-141 and US-2 (shared road segment) with the centerline of the Menominee river located northwest of the city of Iron Mountain, then westerly along US-141/US-2 to the intersection with state highway M-95, northerly on M-95 to M-69, southeasterly on M-69 into Delta county to highway US-41 and highway US-2, southwesterly and westerly on US-41/US-2 into Menominee county where US-41 and US-2 diverge, continue on US-41 southerly to county road G-18, westerly on G-18 to the junction of G-18 with the centerline of the Menominee river.



Upper Peninsula CWD Core Area

map revised 2020 Oct. 16