

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
12/12/11 – 1/8/12**

DISTRICT 1

CO Denny Gast and Sgt. Steven Burton stopped an ORV when they heard a shot after the firearm deer season had closed. The operator had a 30-06 rifle with him and a loaded, concealed pistol hidden in a pack on his ORV. Charges are pending.

CO Grant Emery responded to the complaint of possible illegal deer hanging in a subject's garage. CO Emery contacted the homeowner and found two untagged deer hanging in the garage. The subject claimed to be suffering from amnesia and couldn't say who shot the deer. The deer were seized and the subject was ticketed.

CO Jason Wicklund and Sgt. Marc Pomroy checked a local deer processor for compliance. Suspicious leads were checked and several tagging violations were uncovered. The investigation also turned up an illegally killed deer. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman followed tracks in the snow and discovered an illegal body gripping trap set on the ground. When pulled, the trap was untagged. CO Leadman doubled up with CO Trey Luce and they found and pulled four illegal traps. Efforts to locate the trapper are ongoing.

CO Jason Niemi received a complaint of shots fired at 11:30 p.m. He responded to a residence in the Wallace area and arrested a subject for shooting a spikehorn deer over a lighted bait pile. The deer was also untagged. The subject was ticketed and lodged on probation violations.

CO Dave Miller and Sgt. Steven B. Burton checked four groups of anglers on Bergland Bay and found several violations. Tickets were issued for fishing with too many lines and fishing without a license.

COs Brian Bacon and Jason Wicklund worked ice fishing activity on the small remote lakes near Watersmeet. One angler was ticketed for fishing without a license and another for possessing three undersized pike.

CO Grant Emery completed an investigation regarding a deer shot within the City of Bessemer. The subject shot the deer from a vehicle and then trespassed to retrieve the animal. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Grant Emery checked a subject cutting firewood in Gogebic County. The subject did not have a current firewood permit and a LEIN check revealed two outstanding warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy responded to the complaint of an overlimit of tip-ups on a local river. The COs located numerous homemade tip-ups, and tracks leading to a nearby residence. Contact at the residence revealed the anglers had left for a dentist appointment. CO Bacon made contact later in the day with the suspects and enforcement action was taken for the unattended lines and fishing with more than three lines.

CO Jason Wicklund received a call of an ORV that went through the ice in Gogebic County. The driver and passenger were able to get out of the water and walk to a nearby residence. Both subjects were uninjured and plans are in place to remove the ORV.

DISTRICT 2

COs John Wenzel and Mike Hammill conducted a snowmobile patrol in northern Alger County over the weekend. A few tickets were written for no trail permit; however numerous warnings were given for a variety of minor violations.

CO Mike Hammill investigated several subjects hunting after legal hours. They were using crossbows without permits. The CO set up on them and caught them in the act. Tickets issued.

CO Kevin Postma was in the right area when a call came out to be on the lookout (BOL) for a drunk driver. Within minutes the CO located the suspicious vehicle and contacted the driver. The CO arrested the subject for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated, expired drivers license and possession of a controlled substance. The subject was lodged in the Chippewa County Jail.

CO Kyle Publiski was conducting ice fishing patrol on Munuscong Bay and encountered a subject fishing with too many lines. Upon seeing the CO the subject tried to pull in his extra lines, but it was too late. The CO found that the subject was fishing without a license and located an undersized walleye. Enforcement action taken.

While on routine patrol CO Kyle Publiski came across a vehicle parked in the middle of the road. The CO determined that the subject was out on foot and then proceeded to track him through the woods. Upon locating the subject he was setting illegal snares. Further investigation revealed that most of his snares and traps were not tagged. Enforcement action taken.

DISTRICT 3

CO Duane Budreau received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of recreational trespassing which led to an illegal deer that was killed in Emmet County. After investigating the location and circumstances of the kill, CO Budreau ticketed the subject who had illegally used Deer Management Assistance (DMA) Permits that were issued to

a farmer near Harbor Springs. The subject was ticketed for unlawful use of the DMA permits and also for recreational trespassing while hunting deer.

Sgt. Mike Borkovich assisted at the scene of a two vehicle personal injury accident in Antrim County. One of the victims who had been severely injured was also pinned in a vehicle which had rolled over several times. Quick work by local Elk Rapids emergency personnel on scene turned a bad situation into a routine trip to the hospital.

CO Eric Bottorff and Sgt. Greg Drogowski responded to a shots fired and recreational trespass complaint on the border of the Pigeon River Country state forest. The complainants heard shots and were able to get a license plate number and description of the occupants of the vehicle. The follow up investigation resulted in a ticket issued for recreational trespass as the subject, without the benefit of permission from the landowner, had shot at a grouse from the roadway while both sides were posted private land.

CO Matt Theunick rolled up on a coyote hunter in his vehicle who was intently watching the ice covered surface of Douglas Lake, waiting for hounds to run a coyote onto the ice. Unfortunately, his rifle was uncased inside his truck which resulted in a ticket for possession of an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle.

DISTRICT 4

CO Rich Stowe received a complaint of a dog being caught in a foothold trap set behind some local businesses in Traverse City. After a couple of days of surveillance, CO Stowe, along with CO Sean Kehoe was able to contact a subject as he checked the traps. The subject was ticketed for trap tagging violations and a follow-up investigation will be conducted concerning possible larceny of traps.

COs Steve Converse and Sam Koscinski investigated an excessive deer baiting complaint with possible poaching activity reported. During mid-day the COs located a portable blind near an obvious illegal deer bait site. Later that evening the COs contacted a subject hunting from the blind without any deer licenses and failing to wear hunter orange. Interviews led to an additional suspect in the Saginaw area. CO Dan Lee was contacted by radio and was able to respond to the second suspect's residence, where several illegal bucks were seized. Numerous tickets were issued to address the violations, including an overlimit of whitetail deer.

CO Steve Converse was conducting an inspection of a local deer processor when he encountered a subject bringing in five deer for processing. After speaking with the subject for a short time, CO Converse determined that the subject had killed three bucks within the first 45 minutes of daylight on November 15th. A check of the tags revealed that one was purchased by the subject's wife after the buck had been taken. A warrant was obtained for taking an overlimit of white-tailed deer.

CO Carla Soper and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth checked some subjects as they were leaving a public access site in Manistee County. The subjects were in their motor vehicle with open intoxicants and marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carla Soper investigated a marine accident on the Manistee River. It was reported that a subject had operated his watercraft in a reckless manner and caused an angler in a nearby boat to fall, resulting in serious injuries. The warrant was authorized by the prosecutor's office and the subject was arrested for the violation.

CO Jeff Ginn recently patrolled the Muskegon River late at night and contacted two subjects in possession of undersized walleyes in their live well. The subjects stated they have been fishing the river at night for several years and have never been checked by a Conservation Officer. Tickets were issued and the fish were seized.

CO Jeff Ginn was checking shore anglers on Hardy Pond when he located a subject catching and keeping walleye. After observing the subject for several hours, CO Ginn contacted the subject and discovered multiple undersized walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Mike Bomay and CO Brian Lebel conducted a lengthy investigation of a father and son who shot 14 deer during the past hunting season. Nine of the deer were taken without licenses, including an overlimit of bucks. Both subjects purchased multiple buck licenses and were re-using and borrowing tags. A 10 point buck was seized from a taxidermist and multiple charges were filed. Both subjects have multiple priors with the DNR, including possession of illegal deer and transporting loaded/uncased firearms in a motor vehicle.

CO Brian Lebel was conducting follow-up investigation on an illegal buck at a taxidermist when he came upon another illegal nine point buck. The buck had been tagged and validated on the same day of purchase. The suspect admitted to hunting with only an antlerless license when he had three bucks walk by his stand, and stated he couldn't resist. Enforcement action was taken and the buck was seized.

CO Troy VanGelderren received a complaint of shots fired. The CO responded to the location and found a subject sitting in a vehicle with a loaded, uncased muzzleloader. The subject had no hunting license and a check with the retail sales system revealed he had not purchased one for several years.

CO Mike Wells conducted a two month investigation stemming from a felonious assault handled by the Michigan State Police (MSP) where an untagged deer was found. CO Wells interviewed multiple subjects and was able to locate additional illegal deer including a six point buck tagged with a restricted license. CO Wells was also able to locate two illegal antlerless deer. One was tagged with an antlerless license belonging to a relative. The other doe was tagged with a license not valid for the area and during the closed season. Tickets were issued and a warrant is being sought with the prosecutor's office for the original untagged deer.

DISTRICT 5

COs Matt Liestenfeltz and Mike Hearn conducted a patrol on snowmobiles to check trapping activity and furbearer hunters. The patrol resulted in the arrest of a subject for carrying a loaded and uncased pistol in a vehicle. The COs also contacted a hunter afield without hunter orange. The COs contacted numerous operators of out of state snowmobiles with expired registrations and no trail permits.

CO Chuck McPherson located an illegal trap set on dry land. The name and address information on the trap indicated it belonged to a local resident. The investigation revealed the owner had loaned the trap to a young trapper who was being mentored in the sport and had received bad information on that particular trap set.

CO Mark Papineau received a complaint of a subject ice fishing on Secord Lake who had caught a bass and hidden it in his vehicle. CO Papineau responded to the scene and contacted the angler who was in possession of several panfish. CO Papineau inquired whether the subject had caught and kept any bass and, at first, he said no. After further interviewing, the subject confessed and a four pound largemouth bass was seized and a ticket issued.

CO Mark Papineau was dispatched to an ORV injury accident in a secluded section of state forest land. CO Papineau arrived on scene and was informed by a witness that the victim was one mile back in the woods and severely injured. Neither the victim nor his riding partner were from the area and were unable to provide good information regarding their location. The witness described the area where the accident had occurred, which CO Papineau recognized. CO Papineau drove to the location and located the victim, who was partially submerged in a drainage creek. CO Papineau directed emergency personnel to the location where first aid was performed. The victim suffered from multiple broken bones, possible head injuries, and severe trauma to the chest area. The victim was evacuated from the woods, loaded onto a life-flight helicopter and flown to a trauma center. The victim was last reported to be in stable but critical condition. The investigation revealed that the victim was operating in a prohibited area at excessive speeds when he lost control of his motorcycle and crashed.

CO Jason McCullough investigated a litter complaint where he found a box from a tree stand dumped with several deer carcasses. CO McCullough found evidence in the litter that led to a local business with which he was familiar. Contact with the business produced information that the tree stand had been purchased with a credit card. The CO then obtained a search warrant for the credit card information which led to the purchaser. Contact with the purchaser produced information that the purchaser had given the box to his brother. After interviewing the brother, a confession was obtained for dumping the litter and a ticket was issued.

DISTRICT 6

CO Joel Lundberg was patrolling state land when he found a parked vehicle with blood on it. After waiting until dark, the owner of the vehicle came out of the woods with a muzzleloader and dressed in full camo. The CO asked the hunter how the deer season was going and he stated he had barely seen any deer, let alone shot any. After a brief discussion on the lack of hunter orange clothing and the blood on the vehicle the individual admitted he does not like to wear orange because it scares the deer and he also admitted to shooting a deer and not tagging it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Lee received information that a Saginaw County resident shot two six points and a spike in Wexford County that were hanging in the barn at his house; and that he'd tagged them with friends' tags. CO Lee checked the subject's residence and found the three bucks hanging in the barn. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeremy Payne and Quincy Gowenlock received a complaint of shining and shooting in the Alma area, where the complainant was able to provide the plate number of the suspect vehicle. The COs searched the field for evidence and located an injured doe. The doe had to be dispatched due to a small caliber gunshot wound to the left front leg. The COs went to the suspect's residence and contacted a father and son. Both denied shooting the deer and advised they were out shining raccoons. After the two were separated, the father advised that his son shot the deer. The son continued to deny that he shot the deer until the COs found the blood trail where the deer was dragged into the garage. Upon searching the garage, the COs found three more deer. Further investigation revealed that the son shot two of the deer and found one along side the road. Only one of the three deer was tagged. It was tagged with a used tag that was taken out of the garbage at a deer processing business where the suspect worked. Enforcement action was taken

CO Quincy Gowenlock responded to a complaint of duck hunters entering the Wildlife Refuge in the Maple River State Game Area (SGA). Upon arrival both subjects had already left the area. The CO ran the plate number provided by the complainant and found that the three were from the southern Michigan area. CO Gowenlock contacted CO Todd Thorn who contacted the subjects and obtained a confession. Warrants have been issued.

CO Quincy Gowenlock received a complaint regarding subjects shining and shooting near the CO's residence. The CO was also advised that the complainants were chasing the subjects. The complainants obtained the plate number which returned to a business in Shields. The CO responded to the shop and located the suspect vehicle. The owner was surprised to hear what had transpired and said that his son is the one who drives that truck. During an interview the son advised that he and two friends were deer hunting in Gratiot County. He further advised that on their way home they were shining for deer when they saw a coyote. The driver advised that one of his friends got out and shot at it twice. All three subjects had the same story. Warrants were issued.

CO Vicki Goss followed up on a complaint from a farmer who had heard shots after midnight and had found a gut pile and drag marks the following morning. CO Goss followed the blood trail down two roads and into a driveway. The CO then interviewed an individual and collected blood from his truck. CO Goss obtained a written confession, the firearm used, and three freshly killed antlerless deer. All three deer were taken from three different fields belonging to the complainant. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Vicki Goss stopped a vehicle with a deer strapped to the roof which appeared to be untagged. The driver showed her the tag which had been hidden from view. Checking further, the CO found that the tag had not been validated. The owner seemed confused as to how to "validate" a tag. CO Goss pointed out the instructions printed on the tag and in the hunting guide. The hunter became indignant stating he "knew how to read" and always reads the hunting guide. CO Goss checked the hunter through the license system and found that he had been purchasing licenses for many years. She issued a ticket for not validating his tag and issued a warning for purchasing two firearm licenses.

CO Joshua Wright was following up on a RAP complaint of a possible overlimit of bait and found approximately twenty gallons of bait on the landowner's property. While walking around the property, he found five more piles ranging from 20 to 30 gallons. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Seth Rhodea received a complaint about a hunter shooting a deer and failing to retrieve it. Upon investigating, CO Rhodea contacted the hunter who shot the deer and although it was not left to waste, it was discovered the hunter shot the deer with a rifle in the shotgun zone. Two other hunters on the property were found hunting without valid deer licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster and additional local agencies responded to a Saginaw County 911 call reference a hunter who had fallen from a tree stand. According to Central Dispatch, the caller/victim was badly injured and going in and out of consciousness. CO Foerster and the other responders launched several vessels for the search due to the still unknown location of the victim that was only reachable by water within the Shiawassee SGA. The victim was able to make a call to one of his friends and told him what had happened and that he needed help. His friend knew the approximate area that the victim hunted and was able to locate him by boat and relay his location to authorities. The victim was semi-hypothermic and suffered from a broken back, broken hips, broken femur and several broken ribs. CO Foerster, along with medical personnel, transported the victim out of the area on his patrol vessel to an awaiting ambulance.

CO Chad Foerster was working first ice on Saginaw Bay for ice fishing activity when he came across two anglers that were quite proud of their 50 perch limit that they had just caught. The CO had them dump out their catch to make sure that they had an accurate count. The anglers were accurate in their count but failed to tell the CO of the several undersized walleye that were mixed in with the perch. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster was working a large tract of state land in Arenac County when he observed several vehicles parked on the side of the road near a pipeline. Upon approaching the vehicles, he watched one individual walk to her vehicle and close the trunk. Further investigation revealed an uncased and loaded rifle in the trunk of the vehicle. The second vehicle on scene also had an uncased and loaded firearm inside the passenger compartment area of the vehicle. The hunters stated they were pig hunting and had several on the run with other members of their party in the woods. A check for small game licenses revealed that one of the hunters did not have a license to put her in woods with a firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

After multiple hours of surveillance, CO Nick Atkin made contact with two perch anglers. One of the anglers was in possession of 139 perch (89 perch over limit). The second angler was in possession of 72 perch (22 perch over limit). Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin and local deputies arrested a subject on a four count warrant the CO had obtained for taking a bear during the closed season, hunting bear without a license, driving without a license and a felony charge for resisting and obstructing the CO. A second subject was also arrested in connection with the same investigation for taking a bear during the closed season.

A detailed search warrant was executed in Huron and Tuscola Counties by several District 6 COs and Detectives from the LED's WRPS. The search warrant was based on a several month investigation from a tip received by CO Bob Hobkirk and conducted by undercover detectives from the DNR Law Enforcement Division, on a person who was a convicted felon and was guiding waterfowl hunters but also said to be shooting ducks on his guided hunts. Violations in the investigation included the felon in possession of a firearm, taking over limits of waterfowl, fish and deer and possible drug charges. Three locations were searched resulting in seized over limits of waterfowl and packages of marijuana ready for distribution. The suspect was arrested and several charges are pending with the prosecutor's office.

DISTRICT 7

CO Mike Mshar checked many anglers along the Kalamazoo River with good catches of steelhead. Several tickets were issued for fishing without all species fishing licenses and marine safety issues

CO Mike Mshar investigated an owner of a large construction business who had been disposing of large quantities of building materials on his property. The subject admitted to the illegal activity and was charged with the violation of illegal disposal. The subject was ordered to clean up the area by the spring to avoid further charges.

CO Mike Mshar responded to a trespassing complaint and located the subjects stuck in their vehicle. One loaded and three uncased firearms were found in the vehicle, and it was determined these subjects had been arrested on similar charges in 2010.

CO Patrick McManus responded to a complaint on a local inland lake where a local resident reported that a juvenile Trumpeter Swan had been shot and buried by two hunters. The resident had been watching the endangered animals all spring which consisted of two adults and three juveniles. The two subjects were contacted at their residence and confessions were obtained. The subjects were charged with taking an endangered species and charged \$1,500 in restitution.

CO Gary Raak contacted two fully camouflaged subjects exiting the woods with a .22 rifle in the Barry SGA. One of the subjects stated he was only along to observe, since he left his license at home. The subject hunting was issued a ticket for not wearing the required hunter orange clothing. CO Raak left the area and backtracked, locating a second rifle. Contact was made again and it was determined the second subject did not have a license. He was ticketed for no hunter orange and hunting without a license.

CO Steve Mooney was working a complaint of frequent shining and shooting of deer and had hidden his patrol vehicle in the area. CO Mooney was able to observe a vehicle with the occupants shining with a small handheld light. A traffic stop found the passenger with a muzzleloader between his legs and the hastily removed cap from the rifle on his lap. An admission from the driver and the two occupants was obtained that they were looking to shoot a deer.

CO Ken Cerny received a RAP complaint a little after 11:00 p.m. that a resident had observed a vehicle shining and then had heard a shot. The complainant then observed the truck speed away. The complainant hid his vehicle down the road and a short time later observed the truck return to pick up the deer, but when the complainant approached in his vehicle, two subjects took off in the field on foot as the truck sped away. The complainant then hid and waited for CO Cerny to arrive. CO Cerny, with assistance from local deputies, found where the subjects in the field had dragged the dead deer across two different properties, and following their trail, finally located two subjects hiding in a ditch in possession of a freshly killed antlerless deer. Contact with the subjects also led to the discovery of marijuana possessed by one of the subjects. A warrant is being sought for multiple charges on both subjects.

DISTRICT 8

CO Brad Brewer received a complaint about a subject hunting over bait. He located a blind towering over the field and a truckload of corn. CO Brewer contacted the hunters and explained the reason for his visit. The property owner claimed he was not aware that there was a limit on the amount of bait. A ticket was issued.

For several nights CO Derek Miller worked a complaint of shots fired and did not come up with any results. Finally, he worked it during the day, contacted the landowner, and followed a blood trail back to a neighbor's house. CO Miller contacted the trespass subject who was also wanted on a warrant. After turning this subject over for the warrant, CO Miller continued his investigation into the blood trail, which the subject said

belonged to his friends who were coyote hunting. Follow up resulted in a subject shooting a coyote without a small game license and purchase of a fur harvester license after the fact. CO Miller's investigation ended with an eight point that the subject shot with his bow. He did not have a kill tag and later put a firearm deer license on the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Derek Miller contacted two hunters coming out of the woods. One subject had been drinking and possessed a muzzleloader. His friend was along with him just for the hunt, but turned over a bag of marijuana when CO Miller questioned him on why he smelled like burned marijuana. Checking the area, CO Miller located litter where the subjects had been on state land. He issued a ticket for litter and confiscated the marijuana.

COs Derek Miller and Jason J Smith worked a night shift in an attempt to locate a shiner and shooter in a specific area. As they were heading in for the morning, they observed a slow moving vehicle. The COs followed at a distance as the vehicle turned down a road where a deer was shot a few nights prior. They observed the subject shining into some fields at approximately 5:00 a.m. When they made a traffic stop on the vehicle they found the driver had an uncased .22 long rifle with a scope, loaded with hollow points. The subject first said he was not looking for deer but later admitted he was going to shoot the first deer that he saw. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader responded to a complaint of a deer shot the night before, and at the subject's residence found his wife was evasive regarding her husband's whereabouts. CO Bader advised her that he had located blood and hair in the snow on their property and would be seeking a search warrant. The subject then came out of the house and admitted to shooting a 10 point and that it was in the barn. The subject showed CO Bader the deer, which was tagged with his combination tag. His story was that he was shooting 100 yards away and accidentally shot the buck. It was determined that he had never purchased an antlerless license, so he was hunting without a license during the late antlerless season. The deer and the shotgun were seized and charges are pending with the prosecutor's office.

During the late antlerless season CO Kyle Bader checked two hunters returning to their vehicle. The father had a firearm tag and an antlerless tag, which he produced as he was telling the CO the story of the six point he shot opening day. CO Bader asked what he tagged that deer with, and he said, "I used that buck tag you have, I just haven't gotten around to notching it out." His son was only able to produce a restricted combination license; and a check of the computer license system showed that the son had not purchased any antlerless tags this year. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Brewer investigated a complaint of hunters shooting at a house causing damage. During the investigation he contacted two hunters leaving the woods. One was afield without his license, which he was ticketed for, but a check of the firearms and equipment eliminated them as suspects. CO Brewer, along with a local deputy, checked the property on foot. CO Brewer located the empty shells and foot impressions, and obtained a name during an interview with the property owner. The

subject admitted to shooting at a deer that ran between him and the house. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Fish was called to the Battle Creek Airport reference staff breaking up muskrat dens and killing the muskrats. The Airport staff admitted to the act; they stated they were trying to control flooding that was taking place along their new runway. While a beaver control permit had been issued, they had no permit for taking muskrats or destroying the houses. CO Fish is seeking enforcement.

CO Derek Miller was patrolling on a dirt road and was approaching an intersection when he witnessed a car fail to stop at the intersection causing an accident with another vehicle. The vehicles came to rest a few feet in front of CO Miller's patrol vehicle. He secured the scene and rendered aid to an injured party until paramedics arrived.

CO Brian Fish was called regarding an incident where an elderly man was walking along a rural street when several deer began running in his direction. The older man did not see the deer in time to move from their path. A deer ran into him from the rear and knocked him to the ground. The man was transported to the level three trauma center in Kalamazoo where, at last check, he was in critical but stable condition.

COs Derek Miller and Rick Villerot worked on a complaint of an overlimit of bucks in Lenawee County. During the investigation at a processor they found a four point that was tagged on November 22nd and purchased on November 22nd at 5:30 p.m. The COs went to the subject's house but he was not home so they left a message with his girlfriend. Later that night a friend of the subject's called back and stated that he himself was the one who actually shot the deer. After interviews were conducted a ticket was issued to each subject.

CO Derek Miller was northbound on Platt road when a car came up fast, following too close, and was swerving into the opposite lane in an attempt to pass in a no passing zone. Once the traffic cleared, the subject did pass in a residential zone at 80 plus MPH. CO Miller stopped him and asked him if he knew how fast he was going. The subject admitted to 75 in a 55 and said he was late for work. A ticket for speeding was issued.

CO Damon Owens, along with a local deputy, responded to a complaint of a subject in a wooded area near residences carrying what appeared to be a shotgun. The officers followed tracks in the snow which led them from the woods to an open shed and then to a residence. Upon contacting the resident, he stated that he was in the woods taking pictures of the wildlife habitat. Located in the shed was a crossbow. Further investigation led to the subject admitting to trespassing onto the wooded property with a crossbow, no hunting license and no camera. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy completed an investigation relating to a father and his 17 year old son who shot a large buck and tracked it onto the neighbor's property without permission to retrieve the deer. The complainant stated the pair had been told numerous times in the

past to stay off the property. The pair stated they knew they didn't have permission and were not welcome to go on the adjoining property but said they were willing to take their chances. Charges are pending.

CO Shane Webster responded to a report of trespassing where the complainant stated he watched a hunter walk across his property and soon after saw the same individual with another man come back onto his property with an ATV. The complainant investigated and witnessed the two trespassers tying four deer onto the back of the ATV. When confronted by the complainant the trespassers sped off across the now downed fence line with the deer in tow. CO Webster followed the ATV tracks and drag marks of the deer over a mile and found the ATV inside an open farm building. The deer and the trespassers were gone. CO Webster located the owner of the property who stated there were two hunters on his property with permission who obviously mistook the property lines. He agreed to send them to meet with the CO. The two individuals came back to the farm building and met with CO Webster and admitted to trespassing; however, they did not have the deer with them. One individual admitted to shooting all four deer the day before on the complainant's property and leaving them hanging in a tree until he recovered them. They had taken their vehicle with the deer into town and left it parked in a lot. CO Webster inspected the deer and found all four tags were purchased after the subject stated he shot the deer, and one of the tags belonged to the other hunter. Both trespassers stated the one subject had shot all four deer and admitted to firearm hunting without antlerless licenses during the late antlerless season, borrowing and loaning a tag, and trespassing. The deer were seized and charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

Working from a complaint, CO Todd Thorn located an antlerless deer at a deer processing business. The deer had apparently been shot with a rifle within the shotgun zone. When CO Thorn found the deer at the processing business he noted that it had been tagged by a female, and according to the complaint a man had shot the deer with his rifle. Upon further investigation and interviews, it was found that an antlerless deer had been shot with a rifle by the male subject while he was in his back yard and within a safety zone. It was also found that the man had borrowed his wife's tag to put on the deer and told her to lie for him. Verbal and written confessions were given. A number of charges are being sought.

CO Todd Thorn responded to a complaint of boys dragging deer from the woods behind their home to the back of their house, which was in a subdivision. CO Thorn first spoke with the mother, who stated that she did not know of any hunting activity. CO Thorn then located an antlerless deer by the back door of the home. CO Thorn spoke with the 15 year old son and his 20 year old friend about their hunting activities. After finding ORV tracks through the woods behind the subdivision houses, CO Thorn located another deer. CO Thorn found that the 15 year old had shot two deer and a squirrel from his bedroom window with a .22 caliber rifle, and had only retrieved one deer. A number of charges are being sought, and investigations are ongoing.

CO Pete Purdy was assisted by Sgt Bahlau, CO Prince and CO Smith in locating a subject who had made admissions online about shooting deer this season without a license and any "DNR" Officer that comes snooping around will get shot. The COs contacted the subject working on a vehicle in the front yard. The subject quickly apologized for making the online statements stating he was just trying to show off and also led the COs to the antlers of an untagged seven point rack. Charges are pending.

CO Shane Webster followed up on a complaint of an untagged deer being processed from the deer season. CO Webster located the deer but a tag was provided for the animal. The individual advised he was processing it for his friend who dropped it off. Unfortunately the deer was a button buck tagged with a combination deer license. The person who took the deer was contacted and admitted to the violation. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster investigated a deer carcass dumping complaint. License tags were located on the deer and the subject was contacted. The subject had two previous violations of running a taxidermy business without a license. CO Webster again found him to be accepting work for taxidermy and again to be without a license. Charges are pending.

DISTRICT 9

CO Kris Kiel contacted a subject who was overbaiting for deer prior to October 1st. The CO checked the stand for the hunter at least a dozen times throughout the season with no luck. While checking the stand during the late antlerless season, COs Kiel and Todd Szyska saw that the subject had put up a trail camera. The COs were then able to associate the blind with a specific individual. When interviewed, the subject stated that he baited early for the youth hunt and baited too much because he did not want to have to re-bait it every day. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Linda Scheidler checked the Holloway Reservoir Dam for fishing activity. The CO observed three subjects from across the river. One of the subjects was actively and aggressively snagging. The CO watched and video recorded one subject who brought in one fish that was foul hooked. The CO contacted the subjects. The subject who was snagging claimed he was getting bites and was setting the hook. When the CO explained she had video of his actions, he changed his tune. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Todd Szyska watched as three subjects on state land were releasing and shooting pigeons and chukkers. None of the subjects were wearing hunter orange and the subject who was shooting the birds had no small game license. Contact was made and enforcement action taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Todd Szyska were patrolling Wolcott Mill Metropark for illegal hunting activity and came across two hunters with muzzleloaders. Neither were wearing hunter orange. Both subjects received a ticket for the safety violation.

CO Ben Lasher is investigating a case where some subjects trespassed and shot a deer on opening day. CO Lasher interviewed a subject in St. Clair County who passed the blame to a friend of his. The CO tracked down the second subject in Macomb County and interviewed him. This subject first denied hunting since he did not have a hunting license, then changed his story and stated he was hunting without a license but did not shoot the deer. After putting some of the pieces together in his interviews, the CO found that there was a third subject who also did not have a license and was from out of state. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Kris Kiel received numerous tips over the firearm deer season on a subject who had been hunting deer without wearing hunter orange. The CO also received information that the subject was hunting for a big buck that had been seen in the area. CO Kiel had been checking the area over the season and had been unsuccessful in catching the subject hunting until the late antlerless season. The CO checked the hunting location and found a subject in full snow camouflage. When the subject was identified, the CO knew he had the subject he was looking for. The subject admitted to the violation and stated that he was not wearing orange because he did not want to alert his neighbors. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mike Drexler and Mark Ennett responded to a report that three goose hunters in Pointe Mouillee SGA were possibly hunting from a dike. Upon arriving at the location and checking the hunters, it was determined they were on a sandbar in the containment unit and not on shore. However, one hunter had an unplugged shotgun, and another was afield without any of his hunting licenses. Both were issued tickets. During the check the water levels rose, and the gear that had been on the sandbar began to float away, requiring the hunters to retrieve their equipment via their boat.

Checking shore anglers, CO Dan Walzak requested to see an angler's fishing license. The angler responded in the affirmative and got out his wallet. When he could not produce a license he looked at the CO and said "I don't understand – my license should be in my wallet". CO Walzak checked the angler's license status and found that he had not purchased a fishing license since 2009. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Drexler checked a piece of undeveloped private property known for ORV issues. Just as the CO parked his patrol vehicle a subject appeared, riding an ORV without a helmet. In addition to not wearing a helmet the subject was also in violation of operating an unregistered ORV and ORV trespass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft was checking archery hunters exiting state land when he came across two subjects with a set of elk antlers in their pickup truck. Although the elk antlers turned out to be legal, one of the subjects was deer hunting without an archery deer license. This subject also had a misdemeanor warrant for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft responded to a complaint of an untagged deer hanging in a barn in Milford Township. When CO Kieft arrived at the property, he observed a number of deer carcasses in the wooded area behind the house and footprints around the barn. While searching the barn, he also located an untagged antlerless deer. The owner of the property provided the name of the hunter who had killed the deer. CO Kieft conducted an interview and obtained a confession on the tagging violation. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a hunter harassment complaint, CO Linda Scheidler was talking with the complainant who told her he had taken two different bucks and a doe earlier this season. The CO followed up and found that the subject had only purchased a firearm deer license. The CO spoke with the subject's father who told her that he left his hunting license at camp so that his son or others in the hunting party could use it. The case is still under investigation and warrants will be forthcoming.

While checking for anglers at Decker's Landing, CO Ben Lasher had two different ORVs come down the road and into the access site. The first one was a subject hauling a wagon full of kids, and the second was a subject without a helmet and had a two year old on his lap also without a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.