

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
12/30/07 – 01/12/08**

DISTRICT 1

CO Doug Hermanson was first on the scene of a personal injury accident in Baraga County. The vehicle had rolled over into deep snow and the elderly occupants were trapped inside. CO Hermanson was able get the passenger out, but was unable to free the driver until other emergency personnel arrived on the scene.

CO Terry Short followed up on the complaint of a subject shooting numerous deer out of season. A search warrant was obtained which resulted in the confiscation of several illegal deer parts and a weapon. The subject was interviewed and confessed to the illegal killing of several deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Doug Hermanson responded to a complaint received from the Department of Natural Resources airplane pilot. While flying near Portage Lake, the pilot observed two snowmobiles chase down and run over a coyote on the ice. The pilot watched as one of the sleds stopped at a residence, obtained a firearm, returned to the injured animal and killed it. CO Hermanson contacted the subject at the residence and obtained a full confession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Holmes contacted an angler who could not produce his fishing license upon demand. CO Holmes' investigation revealed that the subject was wanted on an outstanding warrant and that his driver's license was suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund reports that the bear hunter who shot a bear illegally has been sentenced to pay \$2070 in fines, costs, and restitution and serve 10 days in jail. The subject was also placed on probation for six months and lost his hunting privileges for three years.

CO Jason Wicklund and Sgt. Tim Robson worked a complaint on a local Iron County lake where several non-residents were keeping undersized pike. The COs contacted the parties and discovered undersized pike buried in the snow at their cabin. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dave Painter responded to a complaint of timber trespass reported by a Department of Natural Resources Forest Mineral and Fire Management employee. Several large oak trees had been cut and removed from state land. CO Painter located logging equipment and the stolen trees on private property near the state land. CO Painter received a full confession from the property owner. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

A verdict was received on a case where CO Elton Luce ticketed a subject who was found guilty of safety zone violations and trespassing. The subject fired a shotgun that peppered a residence and damaged the vinyl siding of the house. The subject paid the homeowner for the repairs plus fines and costs.

COs Mike Hammill and Bill Webster followed up on a complaint of two subjects taking deer illegally in Alger County. Upon further investigation, it was revealed that the subjects shot five deer with archery equipment but were able to retrieve only three of the deer. Information was also received that two separate individuals traded kill tags for deer hides. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 3

CO Marc Pomroy is investigating a case where a father and son shot two large bucks in a private fenced enclosure on November 14th. The two subjects tagged the deer with state issued hunting licenses and had their photos taken by the local newspaper. The hunters lied to the newspaper, stating that they shot the deer in the wild near Central Lake in Antrim County. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Michael Feagan received complaints of illegal activity on the West Mullett Lake snowmobile trail. CO Feagan used a speed measuring device to check snowmobilers in the area. Numerous violations were recorded, including; speeding, failing to stop at a road crossing, and unregistered snowmobiles. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt responded to an illegal burning complaint, where a subject was burning the remains of a building and its contents. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Marc Pomroy contacted the owners of a residence where two illegally tagged deer were hanging. The investigation revealed that one of the deer was tagged by a subject who was not the shooter and the other deer had an improperly validated tag. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 4

CO Jair Kollasch and Sgt. Michelle Wiegand were first on the scene of snowmobile accident in Wexford County. The skis of two snowmobiles passing in opposite directions caught each other and one of the juvenile passengers was thrown off one of the machines and struck by a third snowmobile. There was extensive damage done to the snowmobiles, however, no injuries were incurred. Enforcement action is pending.

CO Jair Kollasch contacted two subjects operating an ORV in a closed area of Wexford County. The driver and passenger both had suspended driver's licenses and the passenger was wanted on three outstanding warrants. Enforcement action was taken. CO Jim Espinoza received a complaint that two antlerless deer hanging at a camp were taken with rifles during the muzzleloading season. The investigation revealed that the complainant's information was correct. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carolyn Dice received a complaint that a vehicle stopped in the road and a shot rang out. CO Dice responded to the location and found blood and fresh drag marks leading from the field to the roadway. CO Dice contacted two subjects who were cutting up a freshly killed antlerless deer. A confession was obtained from the person who illegally shot the deer. The subject pled guilty and was sentenced to five days in jail, \$1,000 restitution, and \$460 fines and costs.

COs Steve Converse and Carla Soper followed up on a suspicious tag found at a deer processor inspection. The information indicated that the kill tag was purchased after the deer had been killed. The subject was contacted and confessed to purchasing the tag after shooting the deer. The subject stated that for years she would only buy a license if she was successful in killing a deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jim Espinoza reports that two defendants paid more than \$3,000 in fines, costs and restitution when they were found guilty of killing deer illegally in Mason County. Each of the defendants had killed over their limit of deer and purchased extra licenses to cover the extra deer.

CO Brad Dohm handled a complaint of an illegal fire in Benzie County. The subject was illegally burning boards, paint, and metal. Enforcement action was taken.

A subject ticketed by CO Brad Dohm for transporting an uncased crossbow in Benzie County was found guilty by a jury of his peers. The subject was sentenced to 10 days in jail, two years probation, and fined \$475.

CO's Sam Koscinski and Jair Kollasch received a complaint that an illegal deer was hanging in a shed behind a residence in Wexford County. The COs contacted a subject at the residence who stated the deer was a road kill. Upon further investigation, it was revealed that the deer was killed behind the residence with a .22 rifle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells was at a gas station in Newaygo County when he observed a dead deer on a vehicle. The deer was tagged with a license from a subject that lived in Detroit. CO Wells' investigation revealed that a passenger in the vehicle shot the deer and tagged it with the Detroit's license. The driver of the vehicle was driving on a suspended license and the subjects were also in possession of kill tags from four other individuals. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Bomay was inspecting a deer processor in Mecosta County when a subject dropped off a deer. The subject told CO Bomay he had shot the deer just after sunrise. When it was pointed out that the deer tag had been purchased at 12:30 pm that day, the subject admitted he did not have a license when he shot the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Vanderlinde received a complaint from a landowner regarding a pile of bluegills illegally dumped on his property. CO Vanderlinde located the pile of 105 bluegills and the subject who dumped them. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

While checking several large groups of bobcat hunters, CO Chuck McPherson contacted a subject who had taken a bobcat several hours earlier but had not yet legally tagged the animal. Upon seeing CO McPherson, the subject attempted to quickly validate his tag and place it on the animal. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Bowen located a subject who was illegally taking a large amount of firewood from state land. The subject was turned over to the local police for operating a vehicle while suspended, no insurance, and improper plates. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Murray Cherry reports that two subjects arrested for hunting deer from a motor vehicle were found guilty and fined over \$800, they lost their hunting privileges for two years, they forfeited the firearm used, and one subject was placed on probation for six months and must perform eight days of community service.

When CO Glenn Gutierrez attempted to stop a snowmobile being operated illegally, the operator fled across an open field. CO Gutierrez tracked down the snowmobile and had it impounded. Further investigation led to questioning the juvenile operator and his father. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Joel Lundberg and Steve Lockwood are investigating numerous incidents surrounding the arrest of a Gladwin County man involved in the poaching of a number of trophy bucks. The subject has been charged with six counts of illegally taking deer in Clare County and several felony firearm violations. A second subject recently pled guilty to shining with a weapon in possession, loaded firearm in a motor vehicle, and hunting with a borrowed hunting license. The second subject is also being charged with a separate violation of taking a wild turkey out of season. A third subject was charged with taking a deer out of season, possession of a stolen firearm, and felon in possession of a firearm.

CO Joel Lundberg wrote a ticket to a subject for possessing an untagged deer. During the interview, the hunter told CO Lundberg that in 2006 he had killed a nice eight point buck that was stolen from his yard. CO Lundberg re-contacted the subject after the hunting season ended and asked for a photograph of the buck. CO Lundberg had seized a number of antlers from violators and believed one set of antlers matched the stolen eight point rack. The subject was contacted and identified the eight point rack as being the deer stolen from his yard. Enforcement action is pending.

CO Brian Engelhard was checking anglers on a lake when he heard a gun shot. CO Engelhard investigated and located three subjects fishing and trespassing on a private

lake. CO Engelhard contacted the subjects and located three firearms. One of the subjects was a convicted felon. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 6

CO Phil Hudson assisted a sheriff deputy on a traffic stop where the three subjects in the vehicle all possessed uncased firearms. CO Hudson also found a gunshot deer that was taken before legal hunting hours. One of the subjects had been arrested in October for taking a deer with a firearm during the bow season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin received a complaint that a subject shot a deer after hours in a county where there was no late antlerless season. The subject tried to use his antlerless tag for a different county on the illegally taken deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster received a Report-All-Poaching complaint of a hunter who had his field dressed deer stolen. CO Foerster located the subject who stole the deer, obtained a confession, and recovered the deer. The six point buck was returned to the complainant, who admitted to failing to immediately validate and attach the kill tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin and the local sheriff deputies responded to a complaint of a deer being out of season at night. CO Atkin interviewed a subject who admitted he shot the deer under red lights, over a bait pile, in the back yard, because he wanted to fill his antlerless deer license. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Verona State Game Area, CO Robert Hobkirk observed two four wheel drive vehicles operating illegally off road through a grassy field in the game area. The vehicles drove past two "No Motor Vehicle" signs and began tearing up the fields. When CO Hobkirk caught up with the vehicles, they were more than ½ mile from the road. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Terry Hartley arrested a felon in possession of a firearm while deer hunting. The subject was sentenced to 36 months to 10 years in prison.

CO Tony Soave responded to a trespass complaint in southern Saginaw County on New Years Eve where it was reported that a six point buck had been taken with a firearm. CO Soave recovered the deer and interviewed three subjects involved in the incident. Enforcement action was taken.

Three subjects who were ticketed by CO Phil Hudson for taking deer after hours during the closed season were sentenced in Gratiot County. Each of the three subjects will spend the 2008 firearm deer season, starting November 15th, in the Gratiot County Jail. Each will also pay \$1,000 in fines and \$1,000 restitution for the deer.

DISTRICT 7

COs Gary Raak and Jeff Rabbers kayaked the Thornapple River on the opener of the late waterfowl season and checked 28 hunters. One subject was issued a ticket for an overlimit of mallards.

CO Mike Mshar investigated a complaint of a subject taking a buck without a license. CO Mshar interviewed the subject who admitted to taking the buck and an antlerless deer without valid deer licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Mshar and Sgt. Dave Shaw located and pulled over 20 illegally set furbearer snares. The violations included snaring during the closed season, no identification on the snares, entanglement sets in fence crossings, snaring of species other than fox and coyotes, and illegal snare size and components. A subject was interviewed and admitted to the violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andy Bauer reports that the two subjects cited this past fall for illegal ginseng harvest from state lands were sentenced and each paid \$1200 in fines and costs.

Sgt. Bob VerBerkmoes received a complaint of shots being fired from a vehicle after dark. The complainant located the truck and obtained a license plate number, and located a dead antlerless deer where the truck had stopped to shoot. Sgt. VerBerkmoes interviewed the owner of the truck, his son and his nephew, who admitted to the violation. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 8

CO Jason J. Smith responded to a trespass complaint and found a subject who had shot a deer without a license. The subject was not wearing hunter orange, had a crack pipe in his pocket, and there were several outstanding warrants for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Damon Owens and Troy Bahlau worked a late waterfowl shooting complaint and contacted a group of nine hunters. Between the nine subjects, the COs found 14 waterfowl violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason J. Smith heard shots on a parcel of property known for trespassing violations. CO Smith tracked and located the subject, who stated he'd been hunting the property for years and had never been caught. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss was on patrol when he observed an ORV parked by the side of the road with an uncased gun lying on the machine. Upon further investigation, CO Goss located a subject in full camouflage near the ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Benjamin Black responded to a complaint regarding a subject who shot a 10 point buck after the close of firearm deer season. CO Black identified the subject and located

the deer. CO Black contacted the subject at his place of employment and obtained a confession. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling along the railroad tracks one night, CO Benjamin Black observed flashlights and heard two subjects dragging an untagged deer out of the woods. The subjects, who were trespassing, tried to drag the deer onto the railroad tracks right where CO Black was standing. One of the subjects stated that he wished they had more help, right then; CO Black grabbed a leg of the deer and helped the subjects pull it onto the tracks. It took only a few seconds for the subjects to realize who it was that had appeared and helped them pull their untagged deer onto the tracks. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

CO Brandon Kieft responded to a RAP complaint regarding overlimits of fish being taken from a small lake in Oakland County. CO Kieft contacted one subject who had a combination of 52 crappie and bluegill in his possession. The subject also admitted to taking twice his limit the day before. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft assisted the Oakland County Sheriff's Department on a traffic stop where a pickup truck was swerving all over the road. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the driver of the vehicle was transporting an untagged deer, transporting a handgun illegally, in possession of marijuana, and had purchased too many deer hunting licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Szyska responded to a complaint where a subject had an untagged deer in his truck. CO Szyska responded and contacted the owner of the vehicle and checked the untagged antlerless deer. Upon further investigation, it was revealed that the deer was harvested in Oakland County on private land, and the subject produced the unused kill tag. Enforcement action was taken.