

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
2/6/12 – 2/19/12**

DISTRICT 1

CO Grant Emery contacted a group of bobcat hunters in Gogebic County who had just harvested a bobcat. A few of the members were not wearing the required hunter orange clothing and enforcement action was taken.

CO Dave Painter observed an ORV operating after dark along a side street in Caspian without the required headlight. A stop of the ORV found the operator not wearing a helmet. The operator was returning from a friend's house and thought he would go unnoticed by not using a headlight. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman and Sgt. Pete Wright contacted two subjects trespassing on the Chocolay River. They had walked right past a no trespassing sign to access the river. Enforcement action taken.

CO Trey Luce responded to a subject who had collapsed in his house due to a heart attack. Despite CPR and the use of his issued AED, the subject did not recover from the attack.

CO Doug Hermanson and Sgt. Steven Burton ticketed one angler at Craig Lake State Park for possessing live bait. A warning was given for unregistered campsite and unregistered snowmobile.

CO Jason Wicklund and Sgt. Marc Pomroy responded to the tip of a subject dragging a deer into a residence in Dickinson County. When the COs arrived at the house, they contacted the subject's wife, and immediately, two deer were observed lying on the kitchen floor. The COs were told the deer were from deer season and that she was bringing them in to process them. One of the deer was an untagged spike horn. A further check of the residence revealed the female's tag on a spike buck head that she didn't remember shooting. Later in the evening the COs contacted the male subject who confessed to shooting both of the bucks and using his wife's tag on one and illegally using a combination deer tag on the deer in the kitchen. The deer were seized and enforcement action was taken.

COs Jason Wicklund and Dave Painter contacted a group of snowmobile operators near Amasa. Three snowmobiles were unregistered and did not have valid trail permits. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund ticketed an individual for a tagging violation regarding a bobcat he shot. The subject did not have a kill tag on the bobcat when he registered it, and he'd shot the bobcat two weeks before buying a fur harvester license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dave Painter contacted an ORV operator driving along the railroad right of way near Norway who was operating on a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Mike Hammill located several unattended tip-ups on Manistique Lake that were completely frozen in the ice. Some of the flags on the tip-ups indicated that a fish was on, but nobody was in sight. The CO followed tracks in the snow to a residence where he located several short pike in the garage. A knock on the door revealed three anglers who were responsible for the unattended lines. They claimed that they kept the short northern pike because they were dead when they reeled them in. The CO explained that was precisely why the law requires an angler to attend his/her lines. Tickets were issued for unattended lines and short pike.

CO Kyle Publiski responded to a call for assistance from a Sault Tribe Conservation Officer. The Tribal officer encountered a non-tribal subject hunting small game without a license. CO Publiski arrived on scene and issued a ticket for hunting without a license.

COs Jeff Panich and Mike Hammill teamed up to work the Winter Carnival in Curtis. A few tickets were issued for snowmobile violations along with several warnings. Near the end of the patrol the two COs observed a subject operating an ORV in a careless manner. As they proceeded to make contact, the subject lost control and went into the ditch. Upon noticing the approaching COs the subject tried to get out and switch seats with a female passenger, but was too late. Field sobriety test were given and the driver was arrested for operating while intoxicated. A quick pat down of the subject revealed a bag of marijuana for which the subject was also charged.

CO Jared Ferguson was patrolling Little Bay De Noc on Free Fishing Weekend in response to several complaints in the area. While on the Bay, CO Ferguson contacted an angler who was complaining to him about ORVs and snowmobiles buzzing his tip-ups and shack. CO Ferguson worked the area and issued several tickets for careless operation and no registration on the vehicles.

CO Robert Crisp was working the greater Munising Bay area and contacted three subjects who were leaving the ice, heading to their vehicles. One subject stated that they only caught four whitefish. Further investigation revealed an undersized splake that was in a bucket buried in the sled. Enforcement action was taken.

COs John Wenzel and Robert Crisp were patrolling the snowmobile trails east of Munising when they received a call from central dispatch about a personal injury accident involving two snowmobiles. According to witness statements the lead snowmobile struck a large hole in the trail and was ejected from his snowmobile onto the trail. The second snowmobile was unable to stop in time and struck the lead snowmobiler who was lying on the trail. The COs, along with other search and rescue

personnel, were able to stabilize both individuals and transport them to the local hospital.

DISTRICT 3

COs Duane Budreau and Carl VanderWall worked a joint snowmobile patrol with Sgt. Mike Borkovich and issued several warnings and three tickets for a variety of violations. One snowmobile operator who had his three year-old daughter with him was ticketed for careless operation after the COs observed him running multiple stop signs at over 30 miles per hour. When stopped, the man stated that he did not see the stop signs and appeared to be shocked as to his careless operation through the intersections.

CO Andrea Erratt had a busy weekend while patrolling on her snowmobile in Charlevoix County. After giving multiple warnings for a variety of violations, CO Erratt issued several tickets for more serious violations including one for a subject who shot a rabbit within the safety zone of his neighbor's house and another one to a Lake Charlevoix angler who had lied to her earlier in the week stating that he had already purchased a fishing license the day before. A quick computer check revealed that he had actually purchased the license approximately one hour after being checked by the CO.

A Lake Charlevoix angler attempted to quickly reel up his extra lines as he was approached by CO Steve Speigl while fishing in an ice shanty near East Jordan. Unfortunately, the man was not quick enough to evade the CO's attention and was ticketed for fishing with too many lines.

Sgt. Mike Borkovich gave warnings to three local juveniles who had caught and kept a total of four undersized walleyes while ice fishing at Birch Lake. The youths were having a great time and were out fishing with tip-ups because it was Free Fishing Weekend and appeared to have no clue as to size limits or possession limits of the fish. The fish were released back into Birch Lake and fortunately all but one appeared to survive the ordeal. To make matters more interesting, the boys were all 16 and under and did not need a license.

While checking ice anglers, CO Jon Sklba noticed the odor of burning marijuana from inside an ice shanty. After contacting the anglers, the marijuana was located and the owner arrested.

Sgt. Greg Drogowski checked on an ice shanty in which complaints had been received in the past regarding overlimits of northern pike being taken. Contact was made and the anglers were found in possession of an overlimit of pike, in addition to undersized pike. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Theunick responded to a complaint of two snowmobiles that went through the ice on Ocqueoc Lake. CO Theunick contacted and identified the snowmobilers, whom had gotten out safely, and gave them a time frame to remove their snowmobiles.

COs Jon Sklba and Bill Webster patrolled Fletchers Floodwater during a recent fishing tournament. Although the weather was extremely cold and ice conditions were poor, the COs still encountered numerous violations. Over 20 warnings were given for various violations and tickets were issued for operating an ORV without registration, no snowmobile registration, operating an ORV without helmets, fishing without a license and possessing marijuana.

CO Bill Webster patrolled Hubbard Lake on foot and while checking anglers was told that another CO had checked them two hours earlier. CO Webster continued checking anglers and encountered two subjects who were each fishing with four lines. They stated since they were checked earlier they felt they were safe to put out extra lines. Both were issued tickets.

DISTRICT 4

CO Steve Converse ticketed several subjects for fishing too many lines and failing to attend their tip-ups. In one situation, CO Converse waited over an hour at an activated tip-up for the subject to return.

CO Steve Converse served several multiple count warrants over the past two weeks for violations related to this past deer season. One warrant involved the illegal purchase of a resident license to hunt deer by a non-resident. The individual was charged with hunting/taking a deer without a valid license. Another warrant was related to a landowner who used a game camera to catch a trespasser who had taken deer from property he did not have permission to hunt. The game camera documented that the subject had taken two deer, each with less than four points on one side. The investigation revealed that the illegal hunter had borrowed a regular combination license to cover the second buck. Additional charges were filed for the tagging violations.

CO Angela Greenway was patrolling near a railroad track in Lake County when she observed a snowmobiler operating illegally down the tracks. CO Greenway drove to the next road crossing and stopped and ticketed the subject. The operator claimed that he was only operating on the tracks because the snow was so scarce on the trails.

Sgt. Mike Bomay and CO Troy Mueller were on patrol in Osceola County when they observed three subjects dressed in blaze orange with loaded shotguns standing along a roadway adjacent to posted private property. CO Mueller contacted the group, who initially stated they just watched a flock of crows fly by and were waiting for them to pass by again. None of the subjects could produce a small game license. A check of the retail sales system confirmed that none of the subjects had purchased a small game license. The subjects admitted that they were going to hunt rabbits on the property down the road. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy VanGelderren and Sgt. Mike Bomay observed a vehicle with non-resident registration slow rolling and then stopping along a two-track road. The COs followed the suspicious vehicle and after observing several motor vehicle violations, made a

traffic stop. An open case of beer was observed in the bed of the truck and two of the passengers were attempting to hide open cans of beer. Several firearms were located uncased and loaded. The subjects were coyote hunting and claimed they were looking for their hound. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells was on patrol of area lakes when he contacted two subjects in a shanty. Located next to the shanty were two undersized Northern Pike. After talking with the subjects, an additional undersized Northern Pike was located. The three illegal fish were seized and a ticket was issued for the violation.

CO Mike Wells completed a lengthy investigation of a subject hunting while revoked. CO Wells was able to interview the subject at his place of employment and received admissions of small game hunting while revoked. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells received a trespass complaint where footprints and blood were left behind in the snow. CO Wells followed the tracks to a location where a raccoon had been recently killed and then to a nearby residence. After questioning an individual at the residence, several squirrels were also located. The subject had not purchased a small game license and admitted to the trespass. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

CO Mike Hearn ticketed a subject who failed to remove his waterfowl hunting blind from a public lake. Trash had been left in the blind that was frozen in the lake and the subject was directed to remove the structure.

CO John Huspen assisted with a snowmobile injury accident where the operator hit a seawall while traveling along the lake shoreline. The operator suffered extensive injuries and was transported to a hospital.

While checking anglers, CO Mark Papineau contacted an angler using an ORV to haul his fishing equipment on the ice. During the contact, CO Papineau observed dried blood smeared across the back end of the ORV. The angler admitted to having a successful deer season in which he harvested two bucks. CO Papineau learned that the subject had illegally harvested two bucks and allowed a relative to tag one of the deer. The subject admitted that since he had already taken one buck, he asked a relative to tag the other one. CO Papineau followed the subject to his residence, where he produced two sets of antlers that were harvested during the recent deer season. Charges are being sought.

While checking ice anglers, CO Mark Papineau encountered four subjects fishing with too many lines, all of whom knew the law and were trying to hide the extra lines. Two of these subjects were also in possession of marijuana. Tickets were issued to each individual.

CO Jon Warner observed a large plume of black smoke coming from a few miles away. He went to the source of the smoke and found a couch still burning in a subject's yard. He had the owner extinguish what was left of the couch and issued a ticket for illegal disposal of solid waste.

CO Steve Lockwood checked a trapper who had two uncased firearms in his truck. He was also targeting raccoons during the closed season and had several untagged traps in his possession.

CO Jason McCullough was able to conclude two investigations involving subjects not checking their leg hold traps for up to five days at a time. After much surveillance and several interviews, the subjects confessed to not checking their traps.

DISTRICT 6

COs Joshua Wright and Seth Rhodea responded to a call of two subjects who were possible suspects in a breaking and entering in Sanilac County. The COs were able to locate the vehicle and stop and hold the subjects until Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers arrived on scene.

While patrolling after dark, CO Seth Rhodea contacted a raccoon hunter who drove up to him while the CO was stopped on the road. In talking with the hunter, he was found to have a loaded firearm in his truck, along with an open beer, and he also had failed to purchase a hunting license. A ticket was issued.

CO Seth Rhodea stopped the operator of an unlicensed ORV operating without a helmet and in excess of legal speeds for ORVs on the roadway. In addition to the immediate violations, the operator also had his driver's license suspended. CO Rhodea had the subject call someone to pick him up and retrieve his ORV and issued several tickets.

While stopping to check several coyote hunters, CO Seth Rhodea located an uncased firearm in the cab of one of the hunter's trucks. When the CO ran the subject through the computer, the hunter came back having several warrants. When CO Rhodea attempted to talk with the hunter about the warrants, he took off running through the woods. A foot pursuit ended with CO Rhodea catching up to the hunter and taking him into custody. While heading to the jail with the hunter, he asked CO Rhodea if he had ever been in "*Cuffs and Collars*". CO Rhodea advised him that he had been in there a couple times and there was a good chance this story would make it too.

CO Joshua Wright responded to a call for a lost angler on Saginaw Bay. The angler called 911 and reported that they were caught in a white-out snow storm and their GPS had no signal. When Officer Wright arrived at the location where the anglers had walked out from shore, he noticed that the water level in the Bay rose by two feet and there was only about 50 feet of visibility. CO Wright put on his waders and walked out to the safe ice and set flares out to guide the men in. The local county 911 dispatch

took about 45 minutes to help guide the anglers in toward the flares by triangulating their cell phone location with the cell phone towers. Both of the anglers were wet from falling through the ice and having to walk in water to get to shore. Both were treated for exposure and mild hypothermia by an awaiting ambulance.

CO Joshua Wright was contacted by a local parole officer about a person without licenses who may have taken a couple of deer during the past hunting season. CO Wright conducted interviews and obtained enough information to get search warrants for the hunter's property, residence, and hunting cabin. CO Seth Rhodea assisted Officer Wright with the search warrants and collected more evidence. Once the subject was interviewed, he confessed to taking two deer during the past season without licenses. Charges are being sought with the prosecutor.

While checking anglers along the Saginaw River, CO Joshua Wright observed two subjects walking back to their vehicle at the same time they noticed Officer Wright. The anglers turned around and headed back toward the river. CO Wright ran over to where they were fishing and found two undersized walleye floating where the anglers were standing. CO Wright flagged down a boat that was motoring by and they assisted in netting up the fish for the CO. The anglers were issued tickets for possessing undersized walleye.

CO Chad Foerster was working the Saginaw River area when he observed a vehicle without brake lights leaving a boat launch towing a boat. The CO stopped the vehicle for the traffic violation. Further investigation revealed that the subject and his young son were in possession of an overlimit of walleye. Enforcement action was taken and the overlimit of fish were seized.

CO Phil Hudson worked a coyote hunting tournament and encountered several violations such as hunting without licenses, loaded firearms in motor vehicles, driving with suspended licenses and hunter orange violations. Enforcement action was taken in all instances.

CO Phil Hudson was patrolling Saginaw Bay on his ORV and contacted an angler in possession of 97 perch. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bob Hobkirk received information from an individual about a subject who had been bragging to them that he shot more than two bucks during the 2011 deer season. CO Hobkirk started his investigation and located the hunter's tree stand and semi-processed deer carcasses. Evidence was gathered from the carcasses for DNA, and photos of the alleged deer that had been shot were discovered. A search warrant was obtained for the subject's residence and was executed by COs Hobkirk, Scott Brown, Jason Smith, Chad Foerster and Sgt. Tony Soave. The subject confessed to shooting seven bucks and finding two dead bucks. All nine sets of antlers were seized along with the hunter's compound bow and his muzzleloader. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

COs Joel Lundberg and Jay Person observed a large number of tip-ups set on Wixom Lake in front of a residence. The COs sat and observed the tip-ups after tripping a flag to see if the anglers were watching them. Over an hour later, and after dark, a subject came out on the ice with a flashlight. Contact was made and the COs discovered that two subjects claimed the nine tip-ups. When asked how many flags they had up, the subject replied "none." A quick shine with the flashlight revealed the two flags that had been up for over an hour. Tickets were issued for the unattended lines, and a warning was given for fishing with too many lines.

CO Ken Lowell watched an angler on Derby Lake catch and keep his limit of bluegills. When the CO met the angler at his truck it was discovered that the angler had already taken one limit that morning. When asked why he took twice his limit he stated that the fishing was so good he could not stop. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking local lakes in Montcalm County, CO Ken Lowell located a group of three anglers on Muskellunge Lake. After watching the anglers for three hours, the CO contacted the anglers at their truck. The subjects counted out their fish and between the three of them they were 20 fish over their limit. The anglers stated that they took the extra fish for the landowner who let them access the lake. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Isabella County, CO Larn R. Strawn was contacted by the Bay City District Law Supervisor, Lt. Ron Utt. While returning to his residence from Bay City, the Lieutenant observed a pair of tip-ups on the ice at Coldwater Lake. The Lt. had observed the same tips-up earlier that same morning; however, this time one had a flag up and there were no anglers in sight. The Lt. contacted CO Strawn and briefed him on the location of the tip-ups. The CO responded, hid his truck and watched the tip-ups for an hour until dark. After dark the CO made his way to the tip-ups and examined them. Neither was marked with a name and address as required. The CO tracked the footprints to a nearby residence and located a subject who confessed to leaving the tip-ups out all day while being unattended and failing to secure his name and address. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a complaint, CO Larn Strawn was walking along the shoulder of a county road while checking the area for foot prints or signs of recent activity. The CO then observed a car pass him at a high rate of speed. Just after passing the CO the driver of the car locked up the brakes and spun the car into a donut in the middle of the road and again took off at a high rate of speed. The CO was able to get back to his patrol truck and stop the reckless driver. After making contact with the driver and searching the vehicle, the CO found several large bags of marijuana. The subject was arrested for possession of marijuana and reckless driving.

DISTRICT 7

After a large snowstorm, CO Andy Bauer responded to a complaint of snowmobiles operating in Warren Dunes State Park. Upon arrival, the snowmobiles had left and he

followed the tracks to a McDonald's parking lot and located the subjects. Upon contact, the snowmobilers, who were from three counties away, stated that they had heard about the snowstorm, had purchased new snowmobiles and had driven directly to Berrien County. The snowmobiles were unregistered and did not have trail permits, along with having been operated in a closed area. Enforcement action was taken, along with an explanation of the snowmobile regulations.

CO Steve Mooney was working ice anglers on one of the few lakes that have ice and checked an angler with a limit of panfish in the morning. The subject made many comments about how he couldn't believe that people would keep overlimits of fish. CO Mooney went back to the same lake that evening, recognized the subject's other vehicle and checked the subject leaving the lake with another 14 panfish. The subject was ticketed for overlimit of panfish.

CO Steve Mooney was observing an ice angler and watched as the subject caught and kept a bass. The subject was contacted and ticketed for taking largemouth bass during the closed season.

DISTRICT 8

COs Pete Purdy and Jason Smith received a RAP complaint of coyote hunters trespassing and shooting from vehicles. Both COs responded and checked the area. CO Purdy observed a vehicle matching the description of the suspect vehicle including a dead coyote placed on the dog box in the back of the truck. CO Purdy conducted a traffic stop and contacted the occupants. The COs obtained consent to search the vehicle and found a loaded .22 rifle on the back seat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn signed three separate warrants for DNR violations that took place during last year's deer hunting season. One of the warrants was for an illegal deer. Another was for theft of state property, and the third for possession of controlled substance as well as drug paraphernalia.

Sgt. Troy Bahlau responded to a citizen's request for help of a subject who had fallen through the ice on a local mill pond. The 190 lb. man was walking his 70 lb. dog when the dog broke free to chase some swans on the ice. The dog broke through the ice and when his owner attempted to save him he also broke through. By the time Sgt. Bahlau arrived, the subject and his dog were both back on shore and being taken back to their residence to warm up.

CO Kyle Bader was on patrol at the snowmobile trail system north of Battle Creek when he observed three sleds under way. CO Bader wrote one operator a ticket for expired registration and gave verbal warnings for no trail permit and operating against traffic and on the road.

CO Brad Brewer signed a three-count warrant for a subject who shot two turkeys from his truck. During the investigation, CO Brewer found two uncased loaded firearms in his truck; one loaded with a 12 gauge slug.

CO Brian Fish responded to Goguac Lake with the Battle Creek Fire Department after a lake resident called 911. The caller thought he had seen two subjects fall through the thin ice. CO Fish had been at Goguac an hour and one-half before and noted the open water in most of the lake. After launching their hovercraft to reach the hole in the ice, the responders did not find any evidence of anyone having gone through the ice.

CO Jeff Goss was patrolling and observed two subjects walking across a field carrying rimfire rifles. He stopped to talk to them and they stated they were going to check their traps. Neither of the subjects were wearing any hunter orange and they had one untagged trap with them. CO Goss checked several sets and discovered they had not tagged any of their traps. He warned them on the violations and advised they needed to pull the traps and get them tagged. A few days later CO Goss checked the traps again and they were still untagged. This time tickets were issued.

CO Derek Miller located an angler fishing with six lines on two inches of ice. CO Miller walked out and checked the subject, and from a distance got his ID and fishing license. The subject said he thought maybe he could have four lines but wasn't sure. CO Miller wrote him a ticket for fishing with too many lines.

COs Derek Miller and Todd Thorn contacted a hunter in a parked vehicle alongside a road who was waiting for his dogs and looking for a coyote. CO Miller told him they were working the area looking for loaded guns in vehicles and subjects trespassing due to past complaints. They checked his license and his firearm and found that his .22 magnum was loaded sitting on the passenger seat. A ticket was issued for having a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

CO Rich Nickols received a complaint of a subject cutting wood on state land. When Officer Nickols arrived on scene he found the subject had cut a large oak tree that was down but he had not yet taken any wood. The subject was apparently in the process of getting a permit for the wood but had not yet obtained it. Follow-up is continuing.

CO Todd Thorn conducted a traffic stop on a speeding vehicle. The driver was wanted on a felony warrant out of Pennsylvania for illegal weapon sales. The driver was arrested and the Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Sheriff's office was notified.

CO Todd Thorn was dispatched to aid a local police department with a situation involving two young men driving a pickup truck who were stopped and found to have a live, but fatally wounded deer in the bed of their truck. There was also a snowmobile in the bed of the truck that was registered to an individual other than the two subjects. The deer had been hit by a car and was then picked up by the pair who saw the accident. Thinking the deer was dead, they drove off. The deer then started moving around in the back of the truck, and around that time they were stopped by a local police officer.

Enforcement action was taken; including seizure of the snowmobile, since the owner could not be reached and there was no proof of transfer of ownership.

DISTRICT 9

CO Linda Scheidler received an investigation request from a Wyoming Conservation Officer for a subject who had driven himself and a friend to Wyoming to attend court for a previous drug charge. The allegations were that after court the pair each took an antelope with a firearm during the archery season, without a license. CO Scheidler interviewed the subject who pointed the finger at his best friend. The friend was interviewed and a confession was obtained. Shortly after, a warrant was authorized for the initial subject for the Wyoming drug charges. CO Scheidler along with COs Dan Prince and Pete Purdy assisted with locating the subject. He is currently incarcerated awaiting extradition to Wyoming.

COs Kris Kiel and Todd Szyska conducted an interview requested by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources on a subject who may have tagged a buck with an antlerless tag. After interviewing the subject, it was clear that he unintentionally entered incorrect information into the automated system. He still had his antlerless tag and had used the buck tag on his buck. The case was closed based on the information.

COs Kris Kiel and Todd Szyska conducted surveillance on a group of anglers and a subject who had a vessel anchored near the edge of the ice sheet. The subject was on the ice catching yellow perch and it appeared the angler had not been counting. The COs watched the subject drive his vessel to the New Baltimore area and contacted him as he pulled into his boat hoist behind his home. The subject was in possession of 65 jumbo yellow perch; 15 over limit. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Lapeer State Game Area, CO Ken Kovach observed a snowmobile and an ORV operating off road. Knowing he could not catch them in his patrol truck, CO Kovach headed to the game area office and got on his ORV. He was able to track the pair down and enforcement action was taken.