

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
4/16/12 – 4/29/12**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Trey Luce issued a ticket to an individual from Diorite who was burning on a high fire danger day. The fire escaped but was spotted rather quickly by the plane and was put out.

CO David Miller and Sgt. Steven Burton hiked over two miles into Mirror Lake on Friday night. The COs watched four campers in a boat for a while and saw that they weren't fishing. Upon contact, the four anglers from Wisconsin stated they were waiting for the trout opener the next morning to fish. The COs showed them the DNR Fish Guide and showed them that Mirror Lake was open all year for taking trout. They said they had been coming up for the last three years and could have been fishing instead of hanging around camp.

CO David Miller located a small girl who walked away from a campsite in the Porcupine Mountains and was able to return her to her mother.

CO David Miller located a lost hiker on the North Country Trail and transported the hiker back to his party.

CO Jason Wicklund assisted local deputies on a complaint. An individual assaulted a female and stole a large sum of money before leaving on an ORV. The CO and deputies searched the area and located the ORV a short distance from the home. CO Wicklund stayed and set up surveillance on the ORV while the deputies continued their investigation. Just before dark, CO Wicklund observed an individual coming across the field and alerted the deputies who made contact with the individual. The individual was arrested and lodged in the Iron County jail.

CO Jason Wicklund located a blind that was set up next to a feeder. The blind contained several turkey decoys and the ground was littered with corn. The next day the CO was driving by the area and observed the turkey decoys were set up in front of the blind. The CO parked and walked a short distance and took up a position next to the back of the blind. Two individuals were in the blind and one of the individuals was using an electronic call, which is illegal to use for turkeys. The CO made contact and the subjects were arrested for multiple violations.

CO Brian Bacon was traveling on M-95 when the vehicle in front of him tossed a sandwich wrapper out the window. CO Bacon stopped the vehicle and made contact with the owner. When asked why they threw the wrapper out the window, the driver replied "It was in my lap, where was I supposed to put it?" Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon was traveling on a state highway in Dickinson County when he was passed on the right by an erratic driver. CO Bacon stopped the vehicle and interviewed the driver who stated he was in a hurry because his son was late for the local Prom. CO Bacon educated the driver on safe driving and ticketed the operator for improper passing.

CO Marv Gerlach responded to the complaint of ORVs operating on the roadway at a high rate of speed. Within minutes of setting up in the area of the complaint, CO Gerlach observed two side-by-side ORVs operating at a high rate of speed on the roadway. CO Gerlach stopped the vehicles and also determined they had not purchased ORV licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Kevin Postma encountered two subjects fishing on opening day of trout season. At first, all seemed well and then the CO located an extra fishing line that was tied off to a limb and hidden from view. The CO pulled in the line followed by four others that were located as well. The hidden lines all had the same bait, fishing line, and fishing gear. The two anglers insisted that they were not responsible for the extra hidden lines; however, inspection of their fishing gear and bait proved to be an exact match to the suspicious lines. When this fact was pointed out, the two subjects confessed to using the extra lines. Tickets were issued for using too many lines.

CO Mike Hammill responded to an accident in which a subject crashed his dirt bike and had been taken to the hospital. An investigation was conducted revealing several violations. The subject's blood alcohol was over three times the legal limit. Warrants were requested through the prosecutor's office for driving on a suspended license, operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated and several violations of his probation. Warrants were issued on all counts.

CO Kyle Publiski received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint at home late in the evening. He quickly checked in service and arrived in the complaint area on Drummond Island shortly after midnight. The CO quietly found his way through the darkness and located the subjects, who were illegally using trap nets to catch fish. Upon contact with the group, several buckets of perch and suckers were found. As the CO pulled the trap nets one subject started dumping the buckets of fish. The CO quickly put a stop to that and also seized their kayak that was being used in the illegal operation. In the end, all four individuals were charged with illegal taking of fish. Several trap nets and buckets of fish were seized along with the kayak. Other charges are being reviewed.

CO Jerry Fitzgibbon, during his contacts on the trout season opener, warned one angler for keeping a small brook trout and ticketed another subject for using live bait on a restricted trout lake.

CO John Wenzel investigated a solid waste violation that was reported by the DNR fire plane. The individual involved was burning tires, mattresses and various other toxic items. He was arrested for solid waste disposal violations.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Eric Bottorff responded to a complaint of three lost mushroom hunters in the Pigeon River Country State Forest. CO Bottorff was able to locate and lead the lost mushroomers out of the woods and safely back to their vehicle.

CO Duane Budreau found a subject cutting firewood on state land, with his pick-up truck nearly full. Unfortunately, he did not have a fuelwood permit. A ticket was issued.

While on patrol, CO Andrea Erratt located a contractor burning unlawful materials, including carpeting, insulation and other scrap building materials. It was also on a day no burning was allowed due to high fire danger. Enforcement action was taken.

Area Conservation Officers conducted a covert patrol to address complaints of subjects taking overlimits of walleye and taking walleye hours before the opener at the mouth of the Indian River. Numerous vessels and anglers were contacted, with one subject being ticketed for taking walleye out of season and for having an overlimit of walleye.

CO Eric Bottorff responded to a complaint of a turkey being shot in the front yard of a homeowner. The homeowner stated she was outside when she heard the shot. She started yelling at the hunters who quickly fled the area, leaving the turkey behind. The incident is under investigation.

Responding to a complaint of illegal hunting blinds in the Pigeon River Country (PRC) area, CO Eric Bottorff located several illegal blinds left on state land. The site will be revisited in the hunting season.

While patrolling in the Alanson area, CO Duane Budreau came across several piles of trash dumped on state land. After digging through the trash piles, names and addresses of suspects were located. The suspects will be visited by the CO.

While working the ongoing illegal operation of ORVs around Sand Lake, CO Andrea Albert attempted to stop four ORVs operating illegally on the sandy shoreline. A short pursuit ensued and eventually all four operators came to their senses and stopped. CO Albert issued tickets for the illegal operation on state land and gave warnings for failing to immediately stop for an officer.

CO Andrea Albert contacted a 14 and 16 year old who were sitting in a parked vehicle in a remote area. They were hiding something when the CO pulled up; and with their consent to search their vehicle found tobacco products, two marijuana pipes and a grinder, all with marijuana residue. The boys and the tobacco products were turned over to their and father and marijuana paraphernalia was seized and destroyed.

CO Steve Speigl checked a camp set up on state land in Antrim County. Though no one was at the camp at the time, it was apparent that the people were turkey hunting and had put bait out in attempt to bring a turkey close enough to shoot from the camp. CO Andrea Albert checked later and found the campers had put decoys near the bait. The hunters had several violations including improper shot size, loaded gun in motor vehicle, unregistered campsite and baiting turkey. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark DePew patrolled the PRC on the eve of the trout opener and saw activity at one of the sinkhole lakes. CO DePew watched the anglers for a short while and then contacted them. The group claimed they didn't know the lake was not open to fishing yet; CO DePew issued the group one ticket for the violation.

CO Mark DePew was checking trout anglers on opening day, and while talking with one angler who stated he had not had any luck, CO DePew saw a 10 inch brown trout stuffed in the mud. CO DePew inquired about the fish and the angler said he had caught it and it was 10 inches; CO DePew informed him the legal size was 12 inches and issued him a ticket for the short fish.

CO Bill Webster saw a vehicle parked at a designated trout stream the weekend prior to the trout opener. CO Webster watched the angler make several casts then contacted the subject, who denied trying to catch trout; he claimed he was trying to catch bass. The CO advised him that was closed also and issued him a ticket for fishing in a closed trout stream.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Rebecca Hopkins assisted the Leelanau County Sheriff's Department, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and several other first responder agencies with attempts to locate an overdue person who went canoeing in Omena Bay on Lake Michigan. A USCG helicopter located the overturned canoe and a short time later the subject was located facedown in the water wearing a personal flotation device (PFD). Unfortunately, attempts to revive the individual were not successful.

CO Brian Brosky was patrolling for turkey hunting activity in Mason County when two subjects on ORVs passed him in the opposite direction in an area closed to ORV operation. The pair sped away and attempted to hide in a nearby wooded area. CO Brosky drove to the area where the pair were last seen and was able to approach their hiding location on foot. The CO overheard the pair discussing the CO's possible whereabouts. The subjects were contacted and issued tickets for the illegal operation.

CO Steve Converse was working the Portage Lake Channel after dark targeting illegal walleye activity. During his surveillance, CO Converse observed two subjects trolling in a boat land and keep two walleye inland from Lake Michigan. The two subjects were also observed trolling eight lines. CO Converse contacted the subjects and was able to release the two fish and issued tickets for fishing with the extra lines.

CO Angela Greenway received a complaint of a possible overlimit of Wild Turkeys. The complainant was able to provide a detailed description of the suspect vehicle and a subject that had been observed exiting the vehicle and shoot into a group of displaying turkeys, killing two. CO Greenway responded to the complaint area and located the suspect vehicle at a local business. CO Greenway contacted the subject and obtained a confession.

CO Angela Greenway responded to a RAP complaint of a subject hunting turkeys over bait. CO Greenway walked into the hunting site and found two subjects sitting in a popup blind several yards away from a corn feeder fashioned to look like a tree stump with corn spread all over the ground. The subject admitted to placing the corn for the turkeys. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeff Ginn and Brian Lebel were working together checking turkey hunting locations when they passed a subject dressed in camouflage casing a gun next to a pickup truck parked at a camp. The COs stopped and spoke with the subject about his hunting success and noted that the subject appeared nervous. While CO Ginn spoke with the subject, CO Lebel located a turkey feather on the ground. When questioned about the feather, the subject stated no one had harvested a turkey. CO Ginn then observed a drop of blood on the back of the vehicle and again the subject denied having a bird. It was only after a consent search of the truck's bed that turned up additional blood, feathers and spilled bird seed, that the subject admitted to taking a bird and failing to tag it. Upon request, the subject led the COs to the location where he had shot the turkey. The hunting location was heavily baited with bird seed. The turkey was seized and the subject was ticketed for the illegal taking of a wild turkey.

CO Jeff Ginn was working a turkey baiting investigation where he documented several hunting sites baited with black sunflower seeds. As the afternoon passed by, CO Ginn determined that the subject was not going to show so he started the walk back to his hidden patrol truck. On the way back, CO Ginn observed fresh vehicle tracks heading into another tract of land owned by the same suspect. Just as CO Ginn located the suspect's vehicle, the subject walked out carrying a wild turkey and archery equipment. The turkey wasn't tagged and the only tag the subject possessed was for a different hunting unit. At first, the subject attempted to show the CO a different location of the kill. When CO Ginn pointed out the deception, the subject finally took CO Ginn to the heavily baited site where he had shot the turkey. The subject was ticketed for the illegal taking of a wild turkey and hunting without a valid license.

CO Troy VanGelderren was walking a small creek which held spawning steelhead when he observed evidence of human activity in the creek. CO VanGelderren was able to make contact with several subjects as they walked from the area on a two-track with one subject carrying nothing but a freshly taken steelhead. The subject stated he took it by hand and stated he believed it to be legal due to a TV program he had viewed where subjects were taking catfish by hand. CO VanGelderren explained that each state has different regulations and the fish he had taken was a Rainbow Trout, not a catfish. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells was checking a local lake and observed an adult with a child fishing from a boat. CO Wells watched as the boat came ashore at the access site and was met by a third subject. The man in the boat handed the man onshore a five gallon bucket. The subject onshore then walked the bucket up to a vehicle and put it inside. CO Wells then contacted the adult from the boat as they began to load the boat on a trailer. CO Wells noted that the boat's registration was expired and that there were no PFDs on board. When questioned, the subject stated that they had not caught any fish. CO Wells had the subject retrieve the bucket, which contained an undersized largemouth bass. The adult subject admitted catching the illegal fish and fishing without a license. The subject was ticketed for the closed season bass with several verbal warnings issued.

CO Mike Wells checked two subjects in full camouflage with loaded shotguns exit the woods. One of the subjects possessed a valid wild turkey license but the other subject's license was only valid for a later season. One ticket was issued for hunt wild turkey without a valid license.

CO Mike Wells responded to a complaint of a subject burning scrap tires. The complainant stated that the subject dumped two truck loads of tires in the front yard of the suspect's residence and the next morning they were gone with a lot of black smoke coming from a fire in the back yard. CO Wells had difficulty locating the suspect, who also had two outstanding arrest warrants. CO Wells eventually located the subject and lodged him on the arrest warrants and is seeking warrants from the prosecutor's office for the illegal disposal of solid waste.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Mike Hearn located a turkey hunter who was still hunting from a blind well after legal hunting hours. The hunter thought he could hunt until dark.

CO Mike Hearn reports a subject who pled guilty to a charge of possession of an illegal deer, resulting from a 2011 case, was recently sentenced to jail time, three year revocation of hunting privileges, \$1,000 restitution, and \$480 in fines.

CO Chuck McPherson continues to investigate a complaint of heavy equipment being used on state land to excavate an old landfill site in an effort to extract scrap metal. Extensive damage was done to state land and large holes were left behind.

Sgts. Glenn Gutierrez and Jean Davis, along with COs Jon Warner, Bobbi Lively, Warren MacNeill, and Brian Olsen responded to the United States Forest Service (USFS) Little Mack Lake Fire. The COs took part in evacuating many homes, operating traffic control points, and investigating the cause and origin of the 800 plus acre fire.

In following up on a complaint of burning solid waste, CO Steve Lockwood caught the subject burning tires and various other solid waste items. A ticket was issued for illegal disposal of solid waste.

CO Jon Warner responded to a forest fire and conducted the cause and origin investigation. It was determined that the fire was started by a subject who was firing incendiary tracer rounds.

CO Warren MacNeill responded to six separate forest fires and conducted cause and original investigations. Three of the six were caused by downed power lines resulting from high winds. The other three were debris burns that had escaped. Two tickets were issued.

CO Brian Olsen investigated a litter complaint on state land. He located a magazine with a partial name and address among the litter and was able to locate the full name and address via LEIN searches. The CO contacted the individual at their residence and obtained a confession to dumping the litter. A ticket was issued for littering.

In response to a litter complaint on state land, CO Jason McCullough investigated and located a box from a local business among the litter. Through contact with the business, CO McCullough was able to trace the box back to a local subject who confessed to dumping the litter. A ticket was issued for littering.

CO Steve Lockwood located a truck parked along a road with two empty gun cases inside. A check of the registered owner revealed he did not have a turkey license for the current season. The CO was able to locate the two hunters who were hunting turkey over bait and one of them did not possess a turkey license.

CO Jon Warner recovered a stolen ORV that was found floating in a beaver pond a half mile off of a road. CO Warner used his quad to remove the ORV from the pond and then turned it over to the police agency who had handled the original complaint.

CO Mark Papineau investigated a boating accident on Wiggins Lake. CO Papineau was informed that several subjects in a fishing boat had crashed into another vessel which was docked on a hoist. After contacting the subjects in the fishing boat, CO Papineau learned that the subjects had been looking in the live well with the motor in gear. With neither subject paying attention, the fishing boat crashed into the side of the docked vessel. The owner of the boat was ticketed for careless operation.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Holly Pennoni investigated a deer carcass littering complaint on private property. An individual had dumped three deer carcasses on his neighbor's property. CO Pennoni contacted the individual who admitted that he dumped the deer after the November firearm deer season and did not think it was a big deal because his neighbor does not use the property. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Joel Lundberg and Joshua Wright were checking anglers on the evening of the walleye opener when they encountered four anglers in a boat returning to the launch. The COs questioned them on how they had done fishing. The anglers stated they caught five fish. The anglers were questioned on how their success was in

the morning and the COs were told they caught 15 walleye, which completed their daily limit. The COs thought something was suspicious and questioned the anglers individually and found out that one of the subjects did not fish in the morning and did not catch any fish in the evening. After presenting the other three anglers with this information, they admitted to taking too many fish. The fish were seized and tickets issued.

COs Joel Lundberg and Joshua Wright checked anglers on the afternoon of the walleye opener when CO Lundberg observed a vessel that he saw fishing in the very early hours of the same day. When the COs contacted the anglers, they could quickly see that the subjects were under the influence of drugs. The COs found a small amount of marijuana and obtained a confession from one of the anglers to taking an overlimit of walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Joshua Wright and Seth Rhodea assisted the local fire department for several hours on a marsh fire until the fire jumped a tree line and quickly grew. The DNR forest fire crew was called in and after 22 hours of working on the fire that burned 330 acres, it was finally extinguished. An investigation of the fire continues with the possibility of arson being looked into due to this being the third year in a row that this area has been damaged by a fire.

After receiving a complaint of bait being placed in a field, CO Bob Hobkirk checked the location and photographed the bait. Two weeks later, on the opening day of turkey season, CO Hobkirk revisited the location and contacted a subject hunting over the bait. He admitted to baiting the location to bring birds into the area. The subject was ticketed for using bait to hunt turkeys.

CO Bob Hobkirk received a complaint from a local hunting guide that a subject had trespassed onto land leased by the guide. While the guide and a client were sneaking up on some turkeys, another hunter shot at the birds in close proximity to the guide and his client. CO Hobkirk contacted the subject who admitted to trespassing. He was ticketed for the violation.

On the opening day of turkey season, CO Bob Hobkirk received a complaint of a baited hunting location. Prior to responding to the location, the hunters had shot a bird and left the area. With the help of local residents, CO Hobkirk was notified a few days later when hunters returned to the location. CO Hobkirk responded and contacted one of the subjects who had placed the bait. He was ticketed for the violation and provided the name of the hunter who had shot a turkey over the bait. Follow-up enforcement is forthcoming.

CO Jason A. Smith checked an angler and his two young children fishing from shore. His young son began telling CO Smith about the shark his father had caught and put in the bucket. CO Smith checked the "shark" and identified it as a northern pike. After measuring the pike, CO Smith gave the angler a verbal warning for possession of an undersized "shark."

CO Chad Foerster was requested by local authorities to assist them with a missing Autistic teenager. The land to be searched was heavily wooded with several ponds and daylight hours were running out. As the coordinating of law enforcement went on and K-9 units were searching the area, the teenager came walking out of the woods. Though he was wet from the waist down and cold, he was doing well. Medical personnel checked him over and he was released back to his parents.

CO Dan Lee checked a location known to have baited turkeys in the past and found corn on the ground the day before the opener. He returned the next morning and found a man, his wife and nine year old son in an elevated blind hunting turkeys over the corn with firearms. All three were licensed to hunt turkeys. The lady explained that they had put the corn down so their young son would have a good hunt. She explained that there were much worse violations going on somewhere else and that the CO should just let them off with a warning. The CO was not swayed by her arguments.

While checking the Tittabawassee River for any early walleye anglers, CO Dan Lee watched two men start to pack up as he approached. He contacted the men as one was attempting to unload their stringer. The man with the stringer explained that they use the stringer to keep track of how many fish they catch in a day but have no intention of keeping any of the fish. Tickets were issued.

CO Quincy Gowenlock heard a radio call from central dispatch reference a very intoxicated driver that had put his vehicle in a ditch. While en route, dispatch advised that the subject was able to get his vehicle out of the ditch and was traveling eastbound on Mason Road at a high rate of speed to get away from the mail carrier who reported the incident. The CO then got behind the subject and activated his emergency lights and siren. The subject refused to stop, blew through red lights and reached speeds into the high 80s. After a lengthy pursuit the subject finally pulled over. The subject was arrested for alcohol violations and flee and elude. While being transported to the county jail, he stated, "I didn't know you guys did this stuff." The CO informed him that conservation officers are fully certified police officers and they do it all. The suspect replied, "I guess so."

While working the Flat River State Game Area (SGA), CO Ken Lowell received a complaint regarding a subject in Greenville who was trapping and killing squirrels. The CO contacted the subject and then located a live trap buried in the ground underneath a bird feeder. After talking with the subject it was discovered that he traps the squirrels because they eat his bird seed and then relocates the squirrels. He was issued a ticket for illegally taking squirrels out of season.

CO Joel Lundberg was called and advised of two subjects keeping walleye during the closed season. The CO responded in plain clothes due to the wide open location of the anglers. They were fishing where they could see an officer coming from a quarter mile away. When the CO contacted the subjects, they advised they only were catching a few rock bass. The CO identified himself as a Conservation Officer and the one subject

quickly advised he had an illegal bass in his bucket. He went on to say he couldn't believe he got caught. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Joel Lundberg and Josh Wright patrolled the Tittabawassee River on the walleye opener. The COs encountered several anglers in boats who were fishing in the late afternoon that had been spotted fishing the early morning hours. Contact was made with several anglers who had already taken limits of walleye home and returned to the river to catch more. A large number of fish were seized and tickets were issued.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly was working along the Tittabawassee River on the walleye opener when he received a complaint of two anglers taking overlimits of walleye. The Sgt. watched the anglers from the woods on the other side of the river and observed a group of four fishing together from the bank. The Sgt. watched one angler catch six walleye and another catch seven. The walleye were each put into separate coolers and then the anglers continued to fish for walleye. At this time the Sgt. contacted the four anglers. Each angler told the CO that they caught three walleye. When the Sgt. checked the coolers he found 18 walleye in one and 10 walleye in the second. The Sgt. explained that there seemed to be a problem with the number of walleye. One of the anglers stated that one of their friends was sleeping up in the car and he had caught five walleye. The Sgt. ran up to the vehicle and arrived just as the angler who told him about the sleeping friend was calling him on the cell phone. The call was never answered and the sleeping angler advised that he did not catch five walleye. Enforcement action taken and the walleyes were seized.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Gary Raak contacted a group having a party on state land in the Barry SGA. Two arrests were made for underage drinking.

CO Gary Raak responded to complaints of illegal off road activity in the Barry SGA. Four arrests were made to subjects driving their motor vehicles off of designated trails on state land.

CO Jeff Robinette was contacted by the sheriff's department regarding a discovery that a deputy had made on a traffic stop. The deputy had located an uncased .22 rifle in the vehicle and, upon further investigation, discovered two robins, a mourning dove, and a starling in the trunk of the vehicle. CO Robinette responded and took enforcement action for the taking of the protected species.

CO Andy Bauer was called by a local landowner, who, when he went out the evening before turkey season to scout turkeys, discovered a "mudder" style truck stuck on his property. CO Bauer responded and ticketed the subject for trespass.

CO Cary Foster of Ionia County was on patrol in Kent County when he observed a large column of smoke. CO Foster went to check the source and became the first on the

scene of a large barn fire. CO Foster notified the dispatch center to start response of fire units while he maintained the scene until the fire departments arrived.

CO Greg Patten assisted local deputies at the scene of a domestic assault. Upon arrival the officers were unable to locate the suspect who had run off into a wooded area. After clearing the scene, a 911 call came in from the victim stating that the suspect had returned to the residence. CO Patten was the first to arrive and detain the suspect, who was arrested by the deputies when they arrived.

CO Greg Patten was on patrol when he encountered a 13 year old subject operating a dirt bike illegally along a paved county road. Returning the juvenile to his parents who had allowed the operation, CO Patten ticketed the owner of the motorcycle for title violations and gave several warnings to the rider and owner for various ORV violations.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Brad Brewer assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) and local deputies with a possible B&E in progress. When they arrived they could see a subject walking around the house looking into the windows. Officers were able to move within several yards of the home and the subject. After making contact with the subject, they found out that he was the caller who had ignored the dispatcher's directions to stay away from the house. A search of the home and outbuildings found a large amount of damage to property but nothing missing.

CO Damon Owens was following CO Miller when they observed two motorcycles traveling at a high rate of speed. The motorcycles passed CO Owens in a no passing zone and then continued to pass CO Miller and two other vehicles on a double yellow line traveling up a hill. The front motorcycle traveled away from CO Miller at 100 mph before seeing his emergency lights and siren. The subject was stopped and issued a ticket for careless driving.

CO Rich Nickols reports a subject from a trash dumping complaint he had been working the previous week contacted the district office to turn herself in. CO Nickols contacted the subject who said she was told to take several items to a storage unit but rather than pay for the storage unit she dumped the items on the side of the road in a state park. The trash had been cleaned up by the park staff before contact was made with the subject and a littering ticket was issued.

While on patrol for turkey hunters, CO Rich Nickols observed a large plume of thick black smoke in the area. CO Nickols located the source of the smoke behind a residence and found a subject standing near a large pit. The subject was burning plastic shavings that were left from a commercial manufacturing process the subject runs in his garage. The subject said he was burning the shavings because the dumpster he normally puts them in was full. A ticket was issued.

CO Damon Owens contacted two subjects who were fishing at night on the Grand River. One subject stated he forgot his fishing license and identification and the other subject stated he was just out enjoying the fresh air. The subjects both had warrants as well as officer safety caution advisories for assault and resisting arrest. CO Owens controlled the subjects and discovered a pistol CO2 pellet gun in one of the subjects' possession. CO Owens issued tickets for fishing without a license and further enforcement action was taken for the warrants.

CO Shane Webster took advantage of a clear day to patrol the Michigan Center Lake Chain with his patrol vessel. During the patrol, CO Webster noted a vessel without a valid registration occupied by two anglers. CO Webster contacted the individuals and observed a small bass in their fish basket hanging over the side of the boat. The anglers told CO Webster that the fishing was slow but they had caught a fish but they weren't sure of the species. CO Webster asked for fishing licenses and found that neither angler had a valid fishing license. CO Webster questioned the subjects and they admitted they knew it was a bass and also that the size limit was 14 inches. CO Webster informed them that bass was out of season. The largemouth bass was released and enforcement action was taken for the violations.

CO Shane Webster was bringing his patrol vessel to the state launch dock when he noted several anglers fishing from shore. CO Webster contacted them and found that one of the individuals did not have a valid fishing license. Further checking revealed the angler had a warrant for his arrest from several traffic violations. CO Webster placed the man under arrest and lodged him in the county jail. A ticket for fishing without a license was also issued.

CO Pete Purdy was contacted by DNR Wildlife Division in reference to several trash dump sites at the Oak Grove SGA. Wildlife Division technicians located several pieces of mail in the trash to the same individual. CO Purdy contacted the subject who confessed to the dumping. Enforcement action was taken.

While CO Pete Purdy was stopped on US-23 in a construction zone, he observed a subject passing vehicles on the right shoulder to get around the slowed vehicles. CO Purdy conducted a traffic stop and the driver stated that he was in a hurry and didn't want to wait like all the other vehicles. As CO Purdy spoke with the subject several vehicles passed and praised and thanked CO Purdy as this individual had been operating carelessly for several miles in the construction zone. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Daniel Prince, while patrolling during the turkey season, heard two small caliber rifle shots. CO Prince was listening to three gobblers when the shots were heard. CO Prince was able to locate the hunter on private property with a .17 caliber bolt action rifle with a scope. CO Prince and a local deputy were unable to recover the turkey. The subject was turkey hunting without a turkey hunting license and had a second firearm which was a loaded shotgun uncased in the subject's vehicle. The firearms and other

evidence were seized. A warrant request will be submitted to the prosecutor's office for review.

CO Todd Thorn finished up an investigation into an illegal dumping incident in the Dansville SGA by obtaining a confession from a subject that he had been attempting to track down. Enforcement action was taken against the man who also cleaned up the garbage he had dumped.

CO Todd Thorn responded to a RAP complaint of an individual who shot at three turkey vultures from his house. When CO Thorn arrived, he was told by the subject that he had shot in the direction of the turkey vultures from outside his front door, but that he didn't hit any of them and that he couldn't have hit them because there were no turkey vultures around. The man showed CO Thorn an old single-shot .20 gauge shotgun that he said he used, and also said that the vultures were feeding on an opossum that he had killed the day before because it was on his porch when he came home from work. CO Thorn found two .12 gauge shotgun shells on the ground near where the man said he had been when he shot at the vultures. CO Thorn then went to the location of the opossum and found that the man had shot across a road into a farmer's field and found turkey vulture feathers and fresh blood where the dead opossum was. The turkey vulture was found badly wounded in a fence row approximately 300 feet from the opossum and had to be put down. The subject was questioned further and admitted to shooting the bird with his .12 gauge shotgun and was afraid of having it taken. Warrants are being sought in this case.

CO Dan Bigger will be seeking a warrant for a complaint investigation that originated in Shiawassee and led to the subject being located in Genesee County. The suspect will be charged with hunting raccoon without a valid license and taking raccoon out of season. During the investigation, it was determined that his firearm was stolen out of Oregon.

CO Dan Bigger responded to a complaint of a subject taking an overlimit of turkeys. Upon arrival, CO Bigger located a subject at his vehicle with a tagged turkey. Further investigation led to the subject showing him he had been on property he did not have permission to be on. With the subject's story changing frequently CO Bigger began to realize there may be other violations. CO Bigger took the subject to the location where he stated he had shot the bird and noted another area nearby with blood and feathers. CO Bigger was able to locate a second bird which the subject had hidden on other property he did not have permission to be on. Further investigation showed that the subject had shot the second bird without realizing that there was another hunter in a straight line in the direction he had shot. A report has been submitted for a warrant request.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Kris Kiel received a RAP complaint of three subjects keeping bass at the 9 Mile fishing pier on Lake St. Clair. CO Kiel watched all three subjects for over an hour

fishing and smoking marijuana. They caught a few sheephead, but no bass. When the CO contacted the anglers, only one claimed to be fishing. The CO found a smallmouth bass in a fish basket which the licensed angler claimed to not know was a bass. The other two claimed that they were just watching and trying to learn how to fish. When CO Kiel told them that he had been watching them fish and smoke marijuana, the anglers admitted to the violations. Enforcement action was taken on all three subjects.

CO Ken Kovach was patrolling in Lapeer County when he observed a vessel with an expired registration heading back to the boat launch on a small lake. CO Kovach worked his way around the lake and when he pulled into the boat launch the vessel with the three subjects was back at the north end of the lake. CO Kovach drove back around the lake and made it look like he was leaving the area. In reality, the CO drove around the section back to the boat launch and waited for the subjects to return. When they did, CO Kovach stepped out from hiding and contacted the subjects. The CO identified the subjects and it was confirmed none of them had fishing licenses or life jackets in the boat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach was checking anglers on the small lakes in the Lapeer SGA when he observed two subjects fishing from shore. The CO sat back and watched the pair for a few minutes. A short time later, the CO observed one of the subjects catch a fish and put it in a cooler in their vehicle. After a few more minutes, CO Kovach contacted the subjects who denied fishing. After some questioning, the subjects provided identification and neither had a fishing license. They swore they did not catch a fish and after some questioning, CO Kovach gained access to the cooler and found the eight and one half inch bass out of season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Lacle Rapon received a RAP complaint of a subject who caught and kept a smallmouth bass. After speaking to the complainant, CO Rapon learned the angler had been investigated by him in the past and had spoken to him about fishing with no license. The individual does not speak English and his daughter had to be called to the scene to translate. CO Rapon went to the subject's address and spoke with the daughter about her father taking a smallmouth bass. A fishing guide was given to her and she was shown the chart outlining size limits and open seasons of various fish and asked to explain the rules to her father. A warning was given and they were advised that any further contact would result in a ticket being issued.

COs Mike Drexler and Kris Kiel checked a vessel coming off of the Detroit River with five anglers on board. The anglers caught 72 white bass but none of them possessed a fishing license. In addition to the illegally taken fish there were not enough life jackets on board, the vessel displayed an expired registration, and the owner could not produce a paper registration. Tickets were issued to four of the occupants for possessing fish without a license and one ticket to the boat owner for not having the required amount of life jackets.

CO Mike Drexler was checking shore anglers in Detroit when he contacted two subjects sitting in a van directly behind a fish basket containing two freshly caught white bass.

When asked for the subjects fishing licenses, they insisted they were not fishing and another angler gave them the fish. When CO Drexler looked into the van, the passenger had a minnow bucket between his legs and there were three fishing poles in the back seat. Instead of a drivers license one angler provided the CO with his Parole Identification. The other subject was wanted on four outstanding warrants. Eventually one angler confessed to taking the fish and a ticket was issued.

CO Mike Drexler checked a vessel coming off of the Detroit River with three nervous anglers on board. The CO checked one live well that contained almost their limit of white bass. When CO Drexler asked if there were any additional fish on board one angler hesitantly opened the front live well. CO Drexler counted 123 White Bass, making the anglers 48 fish over their limit. Tickets were issued to all three occupants for the overlimit, two of whom had numerous DNR priors for fish and game related offenses.

While working a group patrol along the Huron River, COs Brandon Kieft and Ben Shively issued two fish without license tickets. After one subject gave the COs false information and tried to claim he was his brother, he was arrested on a misdemeanor warrant out of Flat Rock and a felony warrant out of Washtenaw County.

CO Brandon Kieft recently finalized a deer case from October 2011. The subject involved in the case was charged with shooting a 12 point buck after legal hours, within the safety zone of another residence, and over excessive bait. The subject entered into a plea deal for a lesser charge, but paid \$1000 in restitution for the deer, \$500 fines and costs, lost his hunting license for approximately four years and the trophy was forfeited to the State of Michigan.

CO Kris Kiel received a RAP complaint while on his way to testify in a court hearing. The complainant was outside when he heard a turkey gobble followed by a single gunshot. The wild turkey season did not open for another week. When CO Kiel cleared the court, he met with the original complainant, and others, who pointed the CO in the direction they heard the shot. The CO continued up the road until he observed a male subject standing in the doorway of his barn. The CO pulled in to talk with the subject and found him dressing out a turkey. The subject admitted shooting the turkey that morning thinking the season was open. He was unable to produce a license and showed the CO his large, shelled corn, bait pile and his tree stand that he took the turkey from with his shotgun. Enforcement action was taken and the turkey and the shotgun were seized.

CO Todd Szyska responded to a complaint from an anonymous caller that a subject had shot a turkey over a bait pile from his deck. The CO contacted the subject, and found the baited area as well as a pop up blind set up on the subject's second story balcony of his home. It was determined that the subject shot the turkey from his elevated stand with a shotgun at 7:45 a.m., over bait, and did not even tag the bird. The bird was recovered and warrants are being sought for the multiple violations.

While checking a baited area on opening day of turkey season, CO Todd Szyska came upon a group of turkey hunters hunting under power lines. CO Szyska contacted the hunters and asked them if they had permission from the power company to be hunting on their property. The subjects stated that they had no idea that they were on power line property, even though they were set up under the high wires. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers on and along the St. Clair River, CO Ben Lasher observed four fishing poles along the shore near an apartment complex with no one around. After checking a few boats he returned to the poles and still no one was around. After talking to a few local residents and another angler the CO had a subject contact him who admitted to three of the four poles. No one would confess to the fourth pole. The CO re-contacted one of the anglers he previously contacted and checked his stringer. The subject had eight walleye and one bass on the stringer. The subject stated he did not know he was in violation. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Ken Kovach and Ben Lasher worked the late evening prior to the walleye opener checking anglers. The pair contacted a group of anglers fishing off Clam Road on the Flint River. The subjects stated they did not have any luck so far. CO Lasher located a walleye hidden in some brush. The season did not open for several hours. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Borkovich observed a vehicle parked on the side of a country road on the edge of a field and wood lot. As the CO pulled up, he observed a subject sitting in the driver's seat. The CO contacted the subject who stated he was just scouting for turkeys. The CO then saw an uncased shotgun on the passenger's seat with the action open and a turkey load next to it. The subject also had two turkey calls. A check revealed the subject's turkey hunting license was not valid until May. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach responded to a complaint from a taxidermist of an untagged turkey from a subject. The subject told the taxidermist that the tag must have fallen off. The CO met the subject at his residence and the tag was located. It appeared to have been attached with a bread bag tie. The subject stated that he entered the turkey into a contest at a local business. The CO contacted the business and confirmed the turkey was properly tagged.

While patrolling on his ORV in the Lapeer SGA, CO Ken Kovach observed several dirt bike tracks on hiking trails. He followed the trails and located a couple of hunters who were packing up because their hunt was disturbed by the ORVs. A short time later, CO Kovach caught up to a couple of dirt bikes illegally operating on the roadway. He contacted the subjects who admitted to the off road operation in the closed area. Neither ORV was properly licensed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach reports that a subject he arrested in January for taking a deer out of season lost his hunting privileges for three years and was ordered to pay \$1000 reimbursement to the state and over \$400 in fines and costs.