

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
4/20/08 – 5/3/08**

DISTRICT 1

CO Holmes followed up on a complaint of a subject who shot at a turkey from a motor vehicle in Dickinson County. Further investigation revealed that the subject was hunting with a license valid for a southern Michigan hunt unit at a later date. The subject was also in possession of an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman and Sgt. Pete Wright worked the trout opener in Marquette County. They contacted two subjects and issued tickets for netting and clubbing steelhead on the Little Garlic River. Four fish and a long-handled net were seized.

CO Terry Short received a complaint of a large truck stuck on a power line. He located the truck and determined that it had been operating in a prohibited area and had also driven across adjacent private property causing considerable damage. A tow truck was called to remove the vehicle and the owner was located and ticketed.

CO Jason Niemi worked a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint in which a turkey hunter shot a turkey from his car window onto private land without permission to hunt the property. The hunter was contacted at his residence which resulted in a full confession. The gun used and turkey parts were seized.

COs Jason Wicklund and Doug Hermanson worked the Michigan/Wisconsin boundary waters for the opening of the Wisconsin fishing season. Several marine violations and undersized walleyes were found on the 30 boats checked. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Terry Short worked complaints regarding small fishing boats refusing to yield the right of way to incoming freighters in the shipping lane off Menominee. In one instance, there was only one fishing boat in the shipping lane while a freighter was inbound. The small boat refused to give way until contacted by CO Short. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

COs Derek Miller and William Webster attempted to stop several ORVs operating at high rates of speed. The first operator drove down the road and into the woods. The second ORV came within a few feet of the patrol vehicle, and the third could not stop in time and ran into the back of the second ORV. The first operator was found and enforcement action was taken on all three subjects.

CO Reid Roeske assisted the local police agency in rescuing a woman and her son canoeing on the Rapid River. They overturned in the fast water and the son swam to shore and called 9-1-1. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel treated the woman for early stages of hypothermia.

DISTRICT 3

All area COs have begun day and night patrols of the Black River for protection of spawning sturgeon, walleye and other fish. CO Craig Milkowski and Sgt. Greg Drogowski found several anglers in the spawning closure area of the river.

CO Joe Molnar found several turkey hunters with loaded and uncased firearms in motor vehicles who were road hunting. CO Molnar also issued five tickets to separate individuals the first week of turkey season.

CO Andrea Erratt found a subject hunting turkeys over bait, from an elevated blind, and without a turkey license. Enforcement action was taken. The subject stated his son put out the bait, and upon interviewing him, he refused to admit the corn was for turkey bait, but stated it was to feed deer. He received a ticket for feeding deer in a closed county.

CO Kelly Ross watched an angler drop his pole and run upon seeing him approach on a trout stream. CO Ross caught up with the subject and issued a ticket for fishing without a license.

CO Kelly Ross responded to a complaint of a subject who had been fishing and hunting for many years without licenses. CO Ross found the subject fishing without a license and enforcement action was taken.

CO Kelly Ross observed several ORVs operating on a county road without ORV licenses. One was being operated alone by a three year old strapped to the machine. The operation was stopped and the father issued a ticket.

CO Bobbi Bashore observed a hunter shoot a turkey on private land. CO Bashore contacted the subject and found he did not have permission to hunt the private property. After consultation with the landowner, the bird was seized and a ticket issued.

Patrolling the Ocqueoc River, CO Craig Milkowski found a subject snagging steelhead within 100 feet of the weir, and using an illegal rig. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Greg Drogowski responded to a complaint of large trucks tearing up a wetland on state land and found several trucks and jeeps operating in a marsh. Two were stuck with water almost over the door windows. Sgt. Drogowski explained the laws to spectators and participants and enforcement action was taken.

COs Marc Pomroy and Andrea Albert deployed the turkey decoy in a heavy road hunting complaint area. Shortly into the patrol they were called out on a road hunting turkey/trespass complaint several miles away. The COs caught up with the subject who shot the turkey and ticketed him for having a loaded gun in a motor vehicle.

CO Carl Vanderwall was checking turkey hunters and found an illegal deer blind. Shooting lanes were also cut and trees up to 16 inches in diameter were destroyed. The subject was located and ticketed for state land violations.

CO Marc Pomroy observed black smoke rising from behind a residence and contacted a subject burning illegal materials. A ticket was issued and a LEIN hit revealed a felony warrant out of Texas. The subject was lodged at the local jail awaiting pick up from the Austin Texas Police Department.

CO Nick Torsky reports that a subject who shot three elk during the December hunt paid \$3000 in restitution and \$200 in fines.

CO Andrea Albert responded to a complaint where two subjects drove in front of a residence and shot a turkey. The owner was home and provided

a description of the vehicle and subjects. Checking the area, CO Albert located the subjects and ticketed them for trespassing and safety zone violations.

Sgt. Jim Gorno observed a vehicle parked alongside a closed trout stream that historically contains many steelhead. The occupants appeared to be waiting for the rest of their party to return. Sgt. Gorno contacted the occupants and was allowed to sit inside the subject vehicle. A short time later two surprised subjects returned carrying a net and several steelhead.

DISTRICT 4

CO Mike Wells, while checking turkey hunting activity, heard a gunshot and observed two subjects enter a pole barn carrying a large plastic bag. Officer Wells approached the building and met the subjects leaving the barn. After a short conversation, a turkey was recovered that was tagged with the shooter's wife's tag. The shooter had no turkey license and 100 pounds of corn was found nearby. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy VanGelderren caught a subject with a spear along a stream. The individual had just gotten out of jail and was agitated about getting a ticket while on probation. The man refused taking his ticket to the point that he had to be lodged in jail.

CO Mike Bomay was checking anglers when he came upon two subjects smoking marijuana. When checked it was discovered that both men also had outstanding warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling for turkey hunting activity in Manistee County, CO Carla Soper stopped a vehicle driving in a careless manner at the side of a gravel road. Two of the three occupants were dressed in camouflage and were turkey hunting. There was an uncased shotgun and .22 caliber rifle in the vehicle, and the driver admitted to having an uncased loaded pistol behind the driver's seat. Enforcement action taken.

CO Brian Brosky was checking a closed trout stream in Mason County when he observed a subject flee with a spear in his hand. While fleeing, the subject called out a warning of CO Brosky's arrival. CO Brosky apprehended the second subject and contacted Sgt. Kevin Hackworth for assistance. Enforcement action was taken on three subjects.

CO Ryan Rademacher, Newaygo County, checked a young, first time turkey hunter coming out of the woods with his first bird. However, the young man had neglected to tag it. CO Rademacher allowed the young man to tag his bird and issued a warning for the violation.

CO Mike Wells stopped the occupant of a vehicle he believed to be road hunting for turkeys. The driver had an open beer between his legs, a loaded pistol under the seat, and no CCW permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells, Newaygo County, responded to the area of a complaint to look for a subject trespassing and poaching turkeys. CO Wells found two vehicles and tracks leading onto the complainant's property. At 9:00 p.m. and after hunting hours, several subjects came out of the woods with loaded shotguns. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse observed three subjects attempting to net steelhead by hand in a remote section of a trout stream. CO Converse approached the individuals as they were leaving with two fish, and they informed him that they had good luck while fishing. CO Converse told them he had been watching their fishing methods, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jim Espinoza, Mason County, responded to a trespass complaint involving anglers fishing from shore on private land. When CO Espinoza walked in to contact the subjects, he passed several No Trespassing signs, one including the statement, "If you don't live here, you can't fish here." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carla Soper responded to a burning complaint that included construction and demolition materials. By the time CO Soper arrived, the pile was almost completely burned, and fire crews extinguished the remainder. CO Soper had previously documented the pile with photographs and enforcement action was taken.

CO Sean Kehoe contacted two juveniles operating ORVs in a closed area. The juvenile's father was ticketed for allowing the unsupervised operation and verbal warnings were given for unregistered ORV and operating in a closed area. The father had been warned last year for the same violations.

CO Sam Koscinski contacted an angler on the Manistee River downstream from the Hodenpyl Dam who had four fish, three of which were undersized. The angler was ticketed for possession of undersized trout and given a verbal warning for fishing without a license.

COs Brad Dohm and Justin Vanderlinde contacted three subjects at their vehicle near a Benzie County stream and found them to be in possession of one undersize fish, a small spear, and a 22 caliber rifle. The owner of the firearm was ticketed for possession of the firearm without a license.

CO Brad Dohm worked a night time patrol on a Benzie County lake. CO Dohm has received numerous complaints regarding boaters failing to use their navigational lights. Enforcement action was taken on several boaters for the violation.

DISTRICT 5

COs Chris Bowen, Mark Lutz, John Huspen, Tami Pullen, and Sgt. Jean Davis, along with Crawford County Sheriff Deputies and Michigan State Police (MSP) Troopers, responded to a large and fast moving wildfire that burned 1200 acres and up to the city limits of Grayling. A portion of the north and southbound lanes of I-75 were shut down, rerouting traffic along local roads. Residents were also evacuated from a portion of Grayling. Several homes were lost in the fire that burned on state land and private property. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Chuck McPherson located an area of state land where numerous live trees had been cut over a period of time. The location was behind a residence and an interview with the homeowner revealed that he and a friend had been cutting live trees all winter. The second subject was contacted and confessed to taking live trees.

CO Ken Lowell contacted several turkey hunters during the first hunt season who had uncased firearms in their vehicle and, in addition, one hunter was licensed for the third turkey season.

CO John Huspen concluded an investigation of the illegal taking of a deer in which the subject trespassed onto private property and shot a large buck. Several items were seized and sent to the MSP forensic lab where it was determined that the round taken from the deer had been shot from the

subject's firearm. The subject pled guilty and was ordered to pay \$1000 restitution, fines and costs. In addition, the subject's hunting privileges were revoked for three years.

CO Chris Bowen responded to a complaint of subjects burning parts of a motor home. The subjects were contacted and enforcement action was taken. Several days later, CO Bowen was called to a complaint where the same subjects were burning in a new location on a high fire danger day when no burning was allowed. Enforcement action was taken.

While responding to a complaint, CO Chuck McPherson observed a truck loaded with fuel wood leaving state land and noted the description. After taking care of the complaint, CO McPherson located a spot where live trees had been cut. CO McPherson gave the vehicle description to area COs and, several weeks later, received information on a vehicle matching the description. An interview of the vehicle owner led to a confession that he had taken the wood.

COs Jon Wood and Murray Cherry assisted local law enforcement and the U.S. Coast Guard helicopter in a search for a missing 11 year old boy who spent the night in the woods. CO Wood went into a section of private property to continue the search and located the boy walking in the woods. The boy reported the helicopter light had only missed him by a short distance the previous night.

CO Brian Engelhard responded to a complaint of a hunter baiting wild turkeys and found cracked corn on the property. CO Engelhard set up surveillance on opening day and watched as a subject shot a gobbler in the baited area. The subject was ticketed for the illegal turkey and the bird was seized.

CO Brian Engelhard observed occupants throwing debris from their vehicle windows. CO Engelhard stopped the vehicle and the occupants admitted to throwing out a pop can and napkins. A ticket was issued for littering.

CO Steven Lockwood was protecting spawning fish the week before the opener and observed anglers in a boat fishing with lures. CO Lockwood saw the boat come into the launch and the operator wrap up a long skinny fish and carry it out in his landing net. Upon checking the cooler, CO Lockwood located the first pike and then unwrapped the larger pike from

the net. The two pike were seized and CO Lockwood ticketed the operator of the boat for taking pike out of season.

CO Steven Lockwood observed a slow moving vehicle whose occupants appeared to be turkey hunters. The next day, CO Lockwood worked the area and observed the same vehicle drive by. Minutes later, two shots rang out from their direction, and when CO Lockwood went to investigate, found two turkeys that had been tagged, but not validated. Three occupants of the vehicle had valid turkey licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rebecca Hopkins checked two turkey hunters whose licenses were for the next season. They were hunting early because they said they could only hunt on the weekends as they lived downstate. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Warren MacNeill investigated a forest fire on private property where 13 acres were charred. The owner of the property had let his grandson operate an old motorcycle which had a bad exhaust with no spark arrester.

CO Warren MacNeill received a complaint of undersized trout and possible overlimits of trout on the AuSable River. Upon checking the area, CO MacNeill contacted two anglers with overlimits of trout. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Michael Hearn stopped an angler in a canoe on the AuSable River who had no life jackets on board. A computer check of the subject revealed an outstanding arrest warrant for the same violation. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tami Pullen received a complaint of a hunter using bait to attract turkeys. CO Pullen walked the property and found corn hidden underneath some hay. On opening morning CO Pullen checked the hunter, who initially denied using bait until CO Pullen showed him the corn. Enforcement action taken.

CO Tami Pullen and Sgt. Chris Morris encountered an angler who was observed putting fish offal in the river. Through binoculars, Sgt. Morris could see the fish was a brook trout and quite small. The COs walked

around the river to the camp and observed eight brook trout with their heads removed. A ticket was issued for the mutilated fish.

CO Brian Olsen stopped a four-wheel drive vehicle operating in a closed area and detected the odor of intoxicants on the breath of the operator. After failing sobriety tests, the subject was taken to the county jail where he was lodged for operating while intoxicated.

CO Glenn Gutierrez responded to a complaint of an angler taking more than his limit of steelhead. The angler had six steelhead in his possession, twice the legal limit. CO Gutierrez seized three of the steelhead and issued a ticket for the overlimit.

DISTRICT 6

CO Jason Smith responded to a RAP complaint of subjects keeping bass out of season. He went to the residence and contacted the homeowner, and found a fresh hole containing bass carcasses. The subject was ticketed.

CO Holly Pennoni received a complaint of litter on state land. Upon interviewing the subjects, she obtained a confession and ticketed both subjects for littering and had them clean up the trash.

CO Holly Pennoni ticketed a subject for illegal ORV operation for riding through the local game area and on the road. This subject has been warned in the past for the same violations, for making new trails and tearing down fences.

While working a gear restricted area of the Saginaw River during the walleye closure, CO Larn Strawn observed a subject fishing with illegal gear. Upon leaving the area, the subject was stopped by CO Jay Person. It was discovered that the subject was also fishing without a license. Further investigation revealed that the angler gave the COs false information and provided his brother's name. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin was on patrol when he came across a subject operating an ORV on the roadway, without a helmet, unregistered, and with his small child in front of him on the ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin was contacted by a local police agency in reference to nine walleye thrown from the back of a truck during an accident. Upon arrival, CO Atkin asked the subjects about the fish and was told they came from the Rifle River. CO Atkin informed the subjects that walleye season is closed on inland waters. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin was contacted in reference to a fire that was started by a subject after cutting timber. The subject stated he had cut timber on private property and brought the leftover timber onto the adjacent state land to burn. The subject stated that the fire then escaped his control. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Holly Pennoni and Nick Atkin were patrolling state land and contacted several turkey hunters at a camp. The COs could not locate a camp permit and during the investigation one of the subjects was found to have two valid warrants for his arrest. Subject was lodged in the county jail.

While patrolling Saginaw County, CO Dan Lee observed the driver of a pickup truck driving through a cut corn field stop and fire two shots at turkeys in the field. Charges are being sought for attempt to take game from a motor vehicle and hunting turkeys without a license.

CO Dan Lee received a complaint of a subject taking bass out of season. The CO contacted the subject and located two smallmouth bass stuffed in plastic bags and hidden under rocks along the river bank.

CO Larn Strawn assisted local and DNR fire officials with a wildfire investigation. The fire damaged one home, a storage garage, a travel trailer, and two hunting blinds. The fire initially appeared suspicious and officials suspected arson. CO Strawn inspected the scene and located the origin of the fire. The origin of the fire was traced to an illegal burn behind a residence.

COs Phil Hudson and Jeremy Payne investigated a complaint of two subjects hunting turkeys over bait and from an elevated stand. CO Hudson obtained confessions for the illegal taking of two turkeys.

While CO Phil Hudson was investigating a litter complaint in the Pine River, a subject on an ORV drove up to see what the CO was looking for. He was

on the roadway, and had no helmet or registration. Enforcement action taken.

COs Larn Strawn, Jeremy Payne, Nick Atkin, Phil Hudson, Chad Foerster, and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly conducted a group patrol during the walleye opener. The first group of three anglers dropped one angler off on shore with a cooler filled with 15 walleye. The subject then left the area while the other two continued catching walleye. All three subjects were issued tickets for taking overlimits. The next two anglers were stopped with seven bags of walleye fillets and four whole walleye. The COs seized a total of 38 walleye on opening day.

DISTRICT 7

CO Greg Patten checked a subject who possessed a northern pike during the closed season. The subject was ticketed for the fish violation and lodged in the county jail on an outstanding arrest warrant.

CO Jeff Ginn checked a boat being loaded at a public access site on the Grand River. The subject was ticketed when he was found in possession of undersize channel catfish.

COs Jeff Ginn and Jeff Rabbers were on a marine patrol on Gun Lake when they observed three dirt bikes being operated in a careless manner on the roadway. The subjects were riding wheelies on the roadway and then stopped at a lakeside gas station. The COs pulled their boat ashore behind the gas station and contacted the subjects as they filled their ORVs with gas. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Rabbers responded to a complaint of an illegally taken wild turkey. The investigation revealed that a young subject had shot the turkey from 200 yards away using a high powered rifle. The father then finished off the bird with a handgun. The turkey and firearms were seized and the father was lodged in the county jail on an outstanding arrest warrant. Charges will be sought against both subjects for the illegal killing of the wild turkey.

COs Pat McManus and Chuck Towns worked a turkey bait complaint. Their surveillance ended when the subject fired at a turkey feeding on the baited hunting site. The subject missed the bird and was ticketed for hunting turkey with the aid of bait.

CO Pat McManus stopped to check bank anglers at the Allegan Highbanks and ticketed a subject from the group who was in possession of a largemouth bass during the closed season. Approximately one hour later, COs Andy Bauer and Zach Doss, unaware of CO McManus' earlier contact, stopped and checked the same group of anglers. Another subject from the group was caught attempting to conceal an illegal bass and was ticketed for the fishing violation.

COs Zach Doss and Andy Bauer stopped a vehicle operating on the pipelines in a closed area. The driver of the vehicle was drunk and had three prior drunk driving arrests. The passenger was wanted on a felony warrant for failing to register as a sex offender. Both subjects were arrested and charged.

CO Andy Bauer responded to a complaint of a subject shooting geese in a pond behind his house. When CO Bauer contacted the land owner, he stated he was shooting turtles, not geese. CO Bauer explained that shooting turtles was also a violation, and upon further checking the area, found a dead goose hidden in a brush pile. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Mshar responded to a complaint of a subject wearing camouflage observed carrying what appeared to be a Canada goose to the back of a trailer park. CO Mshar walked behind the trailer park and located a subject dressed in camouflage cleaning a bird. When contacted, the subject was found to be in possession of a hen wild turkey. The subject was ticketed.

CO Mike Mshar responded to a RAP complaint of subjects taking an overlimit of pan fish. CO Mshar contacted the occupants of the boat as it was approaching the access site. Upon observing the CO, one subject attempted to throw the large bag of fish overboard. Instead, the weight of the bundle pulled the subject head first into the water. CO Mshar assisted the subject to shore and secured the bag of fish. The subjects were found to be 130 bluegills and crappie over their limits. CO Mshar ticketed each for the possession of the overlimit.

CO Ken Cerny arrested a subject for fishing without a license and taking 28 bluegills over the limit.

DISTRICT 8

No report.

DISTRICT 9

CO Linda Scheidler contacted a subject who was targeting walleye during the closed season. CO Scheidler located four walleye that the subject had hidden in the weeds. Further investigation revealed that the subject was fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ron Pinson was patrolling when he observed the passenger in the front seat of a vehicle in front of him throw garbage out the window. Before CO Pinson could activate his vehicle's emergency lights, the subject threw another load out the window. CO Pinson stopped the vehicle and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received a tip that a subject had shot two turkeys from the same blind while using bait. CO Kovach checked the blind and observed a subject in the blind shoot a turkey while hunting over bait. As he was speaking with the subject, the landowner showed up and admitted to shooting a turkey over bait the previous day. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling a popular ORV location, CO John Borkovich attempted to stop an ORV being operated illegally on the road. The operator and his passenger were also not wearing helmets. The operator attempted to maneuver around the CO to elude him and got the ORV stuck in a ditch. The operator was also in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.