



## Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

**Date of Production: April 2018**

This documentation is provided by Michigan DNR staff as supplemental information to the Eastern UPCAC members.

### Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator: Stacy Haughey

#### ***DNR Public Meetings***

- April 12 Conversations & Coffee with Fisheries, Portage Lake Library–Houghton, 7:00pm  
April 12 Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing  
April 16 Conversations & Coffee, Lake Superior State University–Soo, 6:00pm  
April 19 Eastern UP Citizen’s Advisory Council Meeting, Newberry, 6:00pm  
April 19 Ask the DNR, Channel TV–13, 8:00pm  
April 24 Wildlife Through Forestry Forum (Raptors), NMU–Marquette, 3:00pm  
April 24 Chronic Wasting Disease Public Engagement Meeting, Marquette Senior High School, 6:00pm  
April 25 Chronic Wasting Disease Public Engagement Meeting, Bay College West–Iron Mountain, 6:00pm CST  
April 30 Lake Superior Fisheries Workshop, Great Lakes Research Center, Houghton, 6:00pm  
May 1 UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, Gogebic ISD Office, Bergland, 1:00pm Eastern  
May 2 UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, DNR Baraga Office, 4:00pm  
May 2 Chronic Wasting Disease Public Engagement Meeting, Tahquamenon High School–Newberry, 6:00pm  
May 3 Chronic Wasting Disease Public Engagement Meeting, Magnuson Hotel–Houghton, 6:00pm  
May 10 Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Traverse City  
May 10 UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, Great Lakes Sportsman’s Club, Escanaba 6:00pm  
May 14 PA 288 Public Road Inventory – Public Forum, MTU Memorial Union–Houghton, 5:30pm  
May 15 PA 288 Public Road Inventory – Public Forum, Marquette Township Hall, 5:30pm  
May 16 PA 288 Public Road Inventory – Public Forum, Bay College WC101–Iron Mountain, 5:30pm CST  
May 17 PA 288 Public Road Inventory – Public Forum, Location TBD–Newberry, 5:30pm  
May 17 Ask the DNR, Channel TV–13, 8:00pm  
May 17 Wildlife Through Forestry Forum (Song Birds), NMU–Marquette, 3:00pm  
May 17 Western UP Citizen’s Advisory Council Meeting, Gogebic Community College–Ironwood, 5:00pm CST

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#### ***U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities***

- April 21 Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park–Build a Bat House  
May 26 Baraga State Park–Experience the Keweenaw  
May 26 Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park–Fly Fishing & Stream Entomology  
May 28 Fort Wilkins Historic State Park–Memorial Day Ceremony  
August 13–19 DNR Pocket Park open during the UP State Fair–**PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING!**

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#### ***Recent DNR Press Releases***

*For full details, go to: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnrpressroom>*

- Avoid oak wilt: Don’t prune trees in spring, summer (4/10/18)
- DNR News: Trout hot spots, CWD meetings, Iron Belle Challenge & More (4/9/18)

- DNR urges ORV enthusiasts to be ready to ride (4/5/18)
- Share your thoughts with the DNR at April meetings (4/4/18)
- DNR accepting applications to fill Equine Trails Subcommittee vacancy (4/4/18)
- Showcasing the DNR: A day in the life of Michigan conservation officers (3/28/18)
- Vandals compromise bat research project in Dickinson County (3/26/18)
- Hunters, citizens invited to collaborate on chronic wasting disease response (3/26/18)
- Michigan's 2018 fishing license season kicks off April 1 (3/26/18)

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### **Grant Contacts**

For other grant information, to go: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-58225---,00.html>

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant	Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, <a href="mailto:carlockm@michigan.gov">carlockm@michigan.gov</a>
Recreation Passport Grant	Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, <a href="mailto:carlockm@michigan.gov">carlockm@michigan.gov</a>
Aquatic Habitat Grant	Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, <a href="mailto:parkerk4@michigan.gov">parkerk4@michigan.gov</a>
Michigan Invasive Species Grant	Kammy Frayre, 517-284-5970, <a href="mailto:frayrek1@michigan.gov">frayrek1@michigan.gov</a>
Wildlife Habitat Grant	Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, <a href="mailto:parkerk4@michigan.gov">parkerk4@michigan.gov</a>
U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant	Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, <a href="mailto:scullonh@michigan.gov">scullonh@michigan.gov</a>

### **April 2018 NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer**

The Natural Resources Commission met Thursday, April 12 at the MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory on Beaumont Road in Lansing. Major actions:

The commission approved new elk regulations and approved the introduction of a new 3-day nonresident small game license with waterfowl license issuing rights, and approved mentored youth hunters to purchase additional licenses. (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2018.)

Director Keith Creagh approved a proposed May 7, 2018, oil and gas lease auction and approved 10 land transactions. Details can be found in the NRC agenda.

The first meeting of the day was the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee. Commissioner Louise Klarr introduced Jackie Blodgett as the new PRD assistant chief.

DNR Director Creagh and Erik Eklund, chief budget officer for the DNR, discussed future revenue for state parks and the fiscal impact proposed legislation would have on the Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund and funding for state parks in the future. They gave detailed overviews of Senate Joint Resolution O, which proposes amendments to section 35 (Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund) and 35a (Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund) of article IX of the Michigan Constitution, and Senate Bill 763, which proposes amendments to parts 19 (Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund) and 741 (State Parks System) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. Both SJR O and SB 763 would amend the way revenue from oil, gas and mineral royalties is allocated, which would augment funding for local public recreation projects and protect future oil and gas revenues for expansion of public recreation.

Director Creagh suggested that the committee's focus should be broader than state parks, and said this expanded focus would align with the Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel report submitted to Governor Snyder. The director also reported that at the MNRTF board meeting Wednesday, \$10 million more was made available for the West Michigan Sargent Sand Company project, and more money was made available for Iron Belle Trail connectors.

DNR Parks & Recreation Division Chief Ron Olson reported that at a ceremony Friday, March 16, 2018, the DNR Parks & Recreation Grayling Construction Crew was presented The Miss Dig 811 Safe Digging Advocate Award. The crew is comprised of manager Josh Pellow and three equipment operators – Eric Rohn, Reese

Janisse, and Dave Foster – who do work on DNR-administered lands for multiple DNR divisions across the state and get called into state of emergency situations when deemed necessary by the governor.

Deb Jensen, PRD park plan administrator, presented information on the Holly Recreation Area and provided a summary of the planning process, which reflects sensitivity to the natural resource values, historic and cultural resource values, recreation and education opportunities, and is inclusive of all DNR programs. The Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee adopted proposed Resolution No. 04-2018-02 recommending approval of the Holly Recreation General Management Plan.

Matt Lincoln, PRD grant coordinator-land specialist, gave an overview of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant application process and highlighted several parks and trail development and rehabilitation projects as well as land acquisition projects. The Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee adopted Resolution No. 04-2018-03 to support 2018 grant applications to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Matt also spoke briefly about Phase 2 of the Ionia General Management Plan.

An update was given by Paul Yauk, PRD chief trails coordinator, on Michigan: The Trails State, including working on marketing for the future, focusing on the benefits of trails in communities, health and economic benefits and trends. He reported that there are 12,500 miles of designated trails, 2,400 miles of Rails-to-Trails, and noted that the 2,200-mile Iron Belle Trail is the longest state-designated trail in the nation. Paul also gave an update on overall operations of the trails system, motorized and non-motorized. Kristen Bennett, Iron Belle Trail coordinator, talked about the Iron Belle Trail, stating that the trail is not a state-owned trail but a community-developed and state-facilitated trail. She said there are roughly 1,221 miles of Iron Belle hiking trails and 798 miles of Iron Belle biking trails. The goal is to have the Iron Belle Trail 80 percent complete by the end of December 2018. The Wilson Foundation and Michael Levine have pledged funding, and a committee is working on more funding partnerships and will soon announce a fundraising campaign. Paul also talked about Public Act 288 signed by Governor Snyder in September 2016, which opens Lower Peninsula forest road to ORVs, providing consistency between the Upper Peninsula and the Lower Peninsula. He noted there are upcoming district manager, stakeholder and public meetings in April, May and June regarding PA 288.

Ron Olson reported on an April 9 meeting with Grand Haven community leaders and other state officials to look at opportunities to work collaboratively on enhancements to the Grand Haven State Park. He talked about planned improvements, including expansion and improvements to the parking lot and making it available all year. Ron also noted improvements to the restroom and enhanced security during large events and holidays, and dune grass management, among other improvements. Ron also addressed the issue of transporting firewood into state parks. He said it is not restricted, but people are being encouraged to buy wood in the park or get firewood within 50 miles of the park. More will be reported at the June meeting. Ron referred the committee to the back country camping in the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park and referred the committee to the written report. Ron also noted that the Highland Copper Mining Company has wrapped up exploratory drilling in the park, and the future is uncertain as to what the company will do next. There will be more information at the June meeting.

Vicki McGhee, PRD chief of planning and infrastructure, gave an update on major projects, explaining the best bidding timeframe is winter and indicated she was able to hold off on a project to take advantage of the opportune bidding window, resulting in big savings. She mentioned major renovation projects in the works at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park and F.J. McLain State Park and the White Pine Trail. Ron Olson shared a list of all projects (over 200) with commissioners and said a copy will be put into the MSPAC library for review if members have questions.

Next, the NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries met. Fisheries Division Chief Jim Dexter explained the new Steelhead Mass Marking Program in lakes Michigan and Huron. He said approximately 3 million fish will be marked from 2018 to 2023, 1.37 million of those in Michigan waters of the Great Lakes. Tags will be recovered through 2027 to be able to evaluate movements, survival, natural reproduction and strain. All other Great Lakes jurisdictions are participating. Chief Dexter also gave an overview of the Inland Trout Management Plan, the first ever statewide plan for inland trout and talked about the five goals of the plan. Nick

Popoff, aquatic species and regulatory affairs unit manager, gave an overview of FO 200 that proposes a lake trout bag limit reduction from 3 to 2 fish daily to meet harvest limit projections. Nick added that the department is in discussion with the tribes regarding the change.

Wildlife Division Chief Mason reported that April 16 Governor Snyder will sign a commemorative duck stamp and that there will be 100 prints. He thanked Commissioner Richardson for his work to make this happen. Chief Mason also noted the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's proposal to remove the Kirtland's Warbler from the federal list of threatened and endangered species. He credited the hard work and commitment of the DNR Wildlife and Forest Resources divisions in working to provide the habitat to maintain the birds. Chief Mason noted that turkey season begins next week and announced the turkey tracts dedication at Barry State Game Area Friday, April 13, and Schoneboom acquisition dedication at Barry State Game Area Tuesday, April 17. Chief Mason also noted the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Wildlife Health meeting in Traverse City April 24-25.

Chief Mason announced the passing of Pete Petoskey March 29 at the age of 94. He said Pete was the most recognizable voice for wildlife conservation in Michigan and was a former Wildlife Division chief. Pete worked his way up from a waterfowl biologist to division chief, changing the name of the Game Division to Wildlife Division to recognize the importance of conserving Michigan's biodiversity. He was an advocate for designating the black-capped chickadee Michigan's state bird because chickadees are found throughout the state all year. Pete was called to serve in the USDA Forest Service at Washington, D.C. where he headed up wildlife management at the national level.

Steve Chadwick, Wildlife Division assistant chief, and Brooke Parmalee, legislative assistant, gave an update on Deer Management Assistance Permit Regulations. They provided information on a 5-county pilot area for firearm use during archery season. During 2014-2017, applicants who qualified were allowed to use firearms with DMAPS all of archery season except for October 1-4 and November 10-14. (Rest of the state allowed to use only October 1-14.) The NRC extended the DMAP pilot study area for an additional year for further discussion. The agreed proposal is to expand pilot regulations statewide, with modifications.

During the director's report in the Committee of the Whole, Mark Sweatman, director of the DNR Office of Minerals Management, reported on the Governor's Summit on Extractive Industries held at the Kellogg Center February 13 with approximately 250 attendees. He said there were 26 presenters in five hours. Mark talked about the summit's goals concerning economic benefits, products in everyday life, education training and jobs, perceptions and opinions and industry innovation. He also gave a summary of the topics discussed as well as outcomes of the summit.

Ron Olson provided an update on Recreation Passport sales, which are up to 30.7 percent from 28.5 percent in 2017. He further noted that harbor reservations are up 12 percent, ORV license sales are up 15.5 percent, trail use permits up 5 percent, and the snowmobile season finished up 11.8 percent. He said camp night reservations remain steady.

Marc Miller, DNR regional initiatives deputy, provided a brief update on the Outdoor Recreation Advisory Council, stating that the Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Natural Resources will jointly appoint and establish a council to provide greater engagement and support for economic development and the outdoor recreation business sector in Michigan. Commissioner Chris Tracy will serve as chair, and Marc will serve as a staff lead. The council will be modeled after similar groups in other states, and the Michigan council will be the first in the Midwest. Nine members have been confirmed, and nominees continue to be actively solicited. Confirmed members represent CEOs, presidents or owners of outdoor recreation manufacturing, retail and service sector as well as a community development financial institution and a major health employer. Marc said they hope to have an announcement as to council members within the next 30 days and are looking at the end of May or the first week of June for the council's first meeting.

Rhonda Wuycheck gave a brief update from the Office of the Great Lakes. She reported that the Coastal Program of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> year this year.

Erik Eklund gave a budget update for FY19, which begins October 1, 2018. He noted the Revenue Estimating Conference is scheduled for May 15.

Dr. Tammy Newcomb presented an update on the Great Lakes Invasive Carp Challenge event held March 27-28. She reported that 353 solutions were received from 27 countries, and there were four finalists and six runners-up – one from Uganda. She thanked the external experts/partners and the Michigan carp team for their dedication and hard work on the carp project. Asked if any of the solutions would be used in the future, Dr. Newcomb said she was contacted by the Army Corps of Engineers within 24 hours of the announcement of the challenge winners to schedule a meeting.

Joe Nohner talked about Fisheries Habitats Grants and listed grant program recipients for 2017.

Art Pelon, president of the National Wildlife Turkey Federation, Russ Mason and Al Stewart announced the winner of the 2018 turkey patch contest winner. Art gave a background of the contest and announced that Jami Randolph, a senior from Croswell-Lexington High School in Croswell, Michigan, is the winner but was unable to be in attendance, because she was taking her SAT exam. She will be awarded a certificate and \$100. Mr. Pelon distributed new patches to commissioners and Director Creagh.

Dr. Dan O'Brien, DNR wildlife veterinarian, and Dr. Rick Smith, assistant state veterinarian MDARD gave a Bovine Tuberculosis Disease Surveillance Report update and talked about the 2017 Bovine Tuberculosis Survey Results. In summary, Dr. O'Brien reported that TB prevalence in 2017 was 2.3 percent in the core area and 0.6 percent outside the core area, which is the highest ever. He said the five-year prevalence trend is now increasing, approaching statistical significance in DMU 452, highly significant outside of DMU 452. Michigan exceeded the allowed three TB-infected cattle herds in the Modified Accredited Zone (Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency and Oscoda counties) in 2016. If hunter numbers and effort continue to decline, control measures in addition to hunter harvest may be necessary to maintain or reduce prevalence. MDARD is conducting circle testing in four different areas around TB-positive free-ranging deer in the TB zone. The DNR is updating the strategic plan with MDARD to present to the USDA.

DNR Deputy Bill O'Neill and Dr. Rick Smith provided an update on CWD risk factors in farmed deer. Dr. Smith noted that the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Natural Resources work together to manage Michigan's privately owned cervid programs and assist Michigan cervid producers. He said MDARD manages the disease programs for the privately owned cervid facilities and the DNR oversees registration and performs inspections of facilities. Michigan is one of the top three states where deer are raised on farms; there are 328 facilities with more than 26,000 deer. Michigan has the most stringent requirements in the nation for farmed deer. All facilities must meet minimum requirements and farmed deer cannot be imported without a rigorous approval process by both DNR and MDARD.

Dr. Smith followed up on the CWD workgroup recommendations, which state that the NRC and Agricultural and Rural Development Commission must work together to assess the effectiveness and direction of the farmed deer program, with a focus on biosecurity and CWD risk factors. MDARD and DNR are enhancing biosecurity with regards to improved fencing, animal testing and monitoring movement on and off facilities as well as working to manage key CWD risk factors, such as carcass disposal, live animal movement and minimizing likelihood of escapes.

Also, both agencies are working to evaluate the effectiveness of the joint programs to develop potential regulatory changes later in the year. The 2018 Federal Farm Bill provides an opportunity to increase funds to manage farmed deer, including increased funding for disease testing.

Legislative Liaison Anna Mooney offered a report on legislation affecting the department (see below).

**PA 69 of 2018 (SB 596) – Trail Guidance – Sen. Hansen:** This act amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to recommend that the department develop guidance or framework for local trail managers. This act also suggests various topics that a Trails Council could consider for discussion.

**PA 78-79 of 2018 (HB 5155-5156) – Adopt-a-River and Adopt-a-Shoreline – Rep. LaSata:** These acts amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to clarify the requirements for the Adopt-a-River and Adopt-a-Shoreline programs within the Department of Natural Resources.

**PA 80 of 2018 (HB 5198) – All Hazard Response – Rep. Allor:** This act amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow the Department of Natural Resources to enter into agreements for all hazard incidents taking place out-of-state. Under these agreements, employees would be entitled to the same compensation and employee benefits as they would be in Michigan.

**HB 5001-5002 – Registered Forester – Rep. Rendon:** These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and the General Property Tax Act to establish the Registered Forester Program within the Department of Natural Resources.

- These bills passed the Senate and were returned to the House to be enrolled to the Governor.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**HB 5321 – Prohibit Sterilization of Game – Rep. Cole:** This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit the department from issuing a permit to authorize the sterilization of game until April 2022.

- This bill was reported from the House Committee on Natural Resources and is awaiting a vote on the House Floor.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

**HB 5711 – Firearm Use on Public Land– Rep. Cole:** This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow a minor between the ages of 10 and 14 to hunt bear, deer or elk with a firearm on public land. This bill would also prompt the NRC to allow the same opportunity on public land to individuals with a Mentored Youth Hunting license.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**SB 763, SJR O; SB 931-932 – MNRTF and SPEF Changes – Sen. Casperson, Hansen, and Booher:** This legislation seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) and the Michigan Constitution to provide flexibility for the manner in which oil, gas and mineral royalty revenue is to be distributed to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and the State Park Endowment Fund (SPEF).

This legislation would change the formula for funds currently distributed from the SPEF to designate at least 20% of the royalties to be used towards local public recreation projects. The proposed changes to NREPA and the Michigan Constitution would also allow for more grants to be awarded from the MNRTF each year for the development of public recreation facilities.

- This was reported from the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and is awaiting a vote on the Senate Floor.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**SB 925 – Commercial Fishing– Sen. Green:** This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to make numerous revisions to the commercial fishing statute. The bill would clearly define the Department’s authority to issue rules, orders and license conditions. Under proposed changes to the statute, the bill would also create a commercial fishing advisory committee consisting of commercial and sport fishing interests.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

**HBs 5770-5772 – Privately Owned Cervid Operations and CWD Fund – Rep. Barrett, Albert and Lower:** These bills seek to amend the Privately Owned Cervidae Producers Marketing Act, Animal Industry Act and Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. HB 5770 would require a facility to provide a second perimeter fence that is in compliance with operational standards. HB 5771 would ban the importation of live cervids into this state.

Lastly, HB 5772 would create the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Fund for the purposes of conducting research on CWD in free-ranging deer or elk; conducting research for elimination of the prion; providing surveillance of CWD, including the collection of hunter harvested submissions and testing of free-ranging deer; providing educational materials and outreach about CWD; and to enforce orders related to importation of cervid carcasses. The bill would allow an individual to donate \$1, \$5, or \$10 when purchasing their hunting and/or fishing license. These funds would be deposited into the CWD Fund

- These bills were referred to the House Committee on Agriculture
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

**HB 5638 – Water Withdrawal Tool– Rep. Miller:** This bill seeks to amend Part 327 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide an alternative route for a property owner to submit a water withdrawal assessment. Instead of a request for a site-specific review, the bill would allow a property owner to submit to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) the data used when entering the required fields of the Online Assessment Tool. The bill would also give options to the property owner to submit either registration for a proposed withdrawal that will draw water from aquifers separated from glacial aquifers by bedrock or an analysis by a professional hydrologist demonstrating that the withdrawal is unlikely to cause an adverse resource impact.

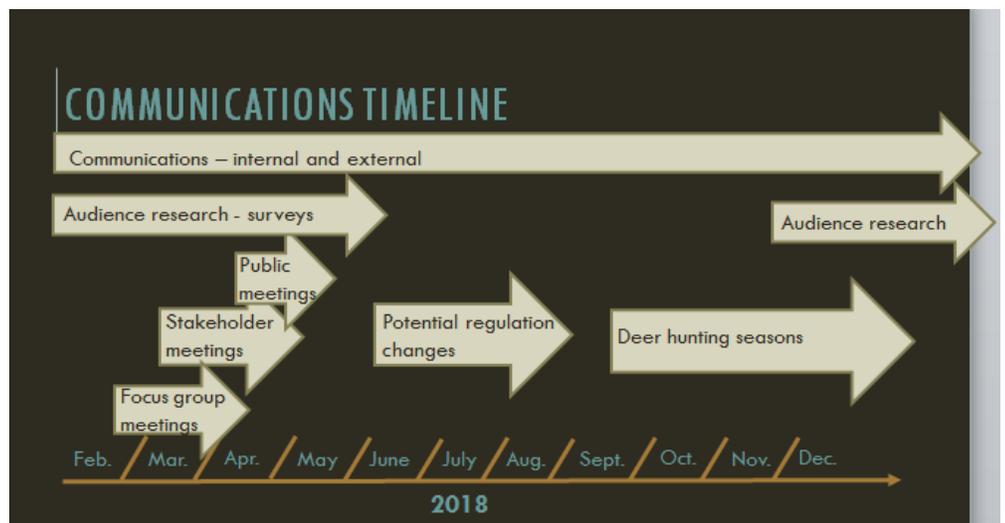
Under the bill, the DEQ would have to provide the property owner an acknowledgement of receipt within ten days after the data and analyses related to the proposed withdrawal are received. This acknowledgement would serve as the DEQ’s authorization to proceed unless the DEQ provides provisional authorization within ten days. The proposed bill would also exempt information submitted by the applicant to DEQ from Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. One hearing was held on the bill and discussions are ongoing between the sponsor and stakeholders.

## Western UPCAC Update

The annual Joint UPCAC meeting was held on March 22 at the Marquette Township Community Center in Marquette. This annual meeting takes the place of a regularly scheduled WUPCAC Meeting in March. A room full of council members, DNR staff and the public enjoyed celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CAC’s. Deputy Director Bill O’Neill and Natural Resources Chairwoman Vicki Pontz were present to express their gratitude to the CAC’s for their efforts as well as provide an overview of CWD communication activities currently in progress and the timeline going forward. A joint council resolution of support for UP representation on the NRC was passed and a presentation of the deer camp survey results for the UP was provided.

The next WUPCAC meeting will be held on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at Gogebic Community College in Ironwood.



**Finance & Operations: Michelle Zellar, Eastern UP**

- Progress continues to be made on the Sault Ste. Marie office construction, with an undetermined completion date.
- The 2018 License Fee Structure is included in your meeting packet.
- With the new department wide website, comes some Retail Sales System (RSS) updates, which I have listed below.

**Customers, license vendors and DNR staff will see some changes to the eLicense system starting March 1, 2018.**

**General:**

- The most significant change is that all eLicense customers will create a new MILogin.
  - MILogin is managed by DTMB and will have users sign up for a profile including name, date of birth, phone number and email. The customer will then establish a username and password based on MILogin requirements and choose a secure way to reset passwords.
  - Benefits of MILogin for customers include:
    - Ability to see three years of their license purchase history, which can help with determining which license(s) they need to buy.
    - Ability to see available bear preference points and elk weighted lottery chances.
    - Ability to reprint items including online, deliverable items that are still in season, valid, and legal to be carried electronically by the customer.
    - Ability for customers to manage their own profile and personal information.
    - Additional layer of security to continue to keep eLicense secure.
  - MILogin manages passwords and application availability for many state agencies.
- Other general updates customers will notice include:
  - A new look and feel that is easier to navigate, meets ADA standards, and is mobile-friendly and compatible with current versions of all internet browsers.
  - A new welcome screen with information and updates from the DNR. This will include information at the top of the page about the new MILogin process (for the first year) and a welcome/tutorial video to help customers navigate the site. DNR Marketing and Outreach Division will be able to add/update content on this page regularly to help keep customers informed about news that might impact license purchases.
- The DNR still will be able to provide updates via the scrolling marquee on the purchase category page for users already logged in.
- We will be switching from what is now “E-License” (hyphenated with uppercase “E”) to “eLicense” (not hyphenated for lowercase “e”). Please make note of the change for consistency in written communications.
- If customers ask about development of an eLicense app and/or mobile tags, we are exploring options for both.
- Once logged in, users will see three tabs: Purchase, History and Profile. See below for details about each of these tabs.

**Purchase Tab**

- The purchase screen will feature icons for different license categories instead of a drop-down menu.
- There will be prompts to help customers with item selection, quantities and prerequisite items.
- All items a customer is eligible to purchase will be displayed in separate categories.
  - Items that have pre-requisites will display a message to customers that will link them to the prerequisites’ item page for purchase to reduce confusion and customer clicks.
- Customers can go between eLicense screens, such as Purchase and History, while still in the purchase transaction without having to start over.
  - Exceptions for customers making updates to their profile, timed-out sessions and closed windows.
- The final page after CEPAS payment will have a new look and feel.

## History Tab

- Three choices will be available to each customer:
  - View Purchase History
    - Shows customers' item purchase history based on their profile for the current year plus two years back.
    - Reprintable items display a reprint button during the allowed times (during the license year, before season ends, not voided, etc.).
  - View Points and Chances
    - Customers can see details of each year they earned a bear preference point/elk weighted lottery chance.
    - Customers can contest/question any inconsistencies.
    - Customers don't have to leave the eLicense page to view this information.
  - View Special Hunt Details
    - Shows a summary of each customer's "special hunt" items like applications including Pure Michigan, antlerless deer, spring and fall turkey. Each item can be expanded to show details like hunt area, drawing success, etc.

## Profile Tab

- Customers will have to update their eLicense profile annually.
- New customers MUST establish a profile before a purchase can be made.
- Customers' profile will establish:
  - residency, military status and special provisions such as blindness or veteran's disability to take advantage of offered discounts
  - identification used or need to purchase a new ID
  - name, date of birth, height, weight, gender, email and phone
  - address
- Profile data in eLicense is what MILogin uses to connect the two systems.
  - MILogin sets up an account for any citizen to access applications for multiple state agencies as requested.
  - eLicense profile contains the customer information stored with the DNR for the purpose of purchasing items sold by the DNR through eLicense.

## License Updates

- Small Game 3 Day NR and Small Game 3 Day NR APC [PA 3 of 2018 (HB 4533)]
  - \$50 for 3 Day, \$80 for 7 Day
  - Base licenses are required to hunt waterfowl for more than 7 days, can purchase a Waterfowl license with a 7 Day and 3 Day license.
- Mentored Youth Hunting [PA 4 of 2018 (HB 4957)]
  - Allows an individual who has PURCHASED a Mentored Youth Hunting license to purchase additional licenses, including Antlerless Deer, Bear and Elk.
  - The act also clarifies that the mentored youth is subject to the same license application process as other hunters are for purchasing additional licenses.
  - New MYH Applications have been created for those youths that have already purchased a MYH license.
    - 159 – Deer Antlerless Appl MYH
    - 169 – Turkey Fall Appl MYH
    - 177 – Elk Application MYH
    - 187 – Bear Application MYH

## Seasons/License Reminders for April/May 2018

- April 1 Hand net size restrictions begin on trout streams (through 6/30)
- April 15 Dog training closes (also no hunting with dogs)
- April 15 Beaver & Otter trapping close (Units A & B, except UP trout streams close 4/30)

- April 23 Spring Turkey opener (for the early hunts)
- April 28 Trout opener (Inland Waters)
- April 28 Walleye and Pike season open for lower peninsula inland except: note 3, p.17
- May 1 May apply for Bear and Elk hunts; fur harvester licenses go on sale
- May 1 Can obtain kill tags for Otter, Bobcat, Marten, and Fisher (residents only)
- May 1 Deadline for returning Incidental trapping seals to DNR
- May 3 Last day to register Otter from UP trout streams, see p. 54 for April deadlines
- May 15 Walleye and Pike open in UP inland / UP Great Lakes / St. Mary's River
- May 26 Bass opener (catch and keep season)
- May 26 Frog, Toad, Salamander/Mudpuppy seasons open (until 11/15)
- May 31 Hand net & dip net seasons close

## **EUP Wildlife Division: Terry Minzey, Wildlife Supervisor (prepared by Kristie Sitar, Biologist)**

- *Deer Surveys*
  - Wildlife staff are beginning their third year of a spring recruitment index for fawns. Deer camp survey data provides a recruitment index for fawns at 6 months of age, but this information does not account for losses that occur during winter months. The spring fawn-to-total deer survey will provide information on an estimate of over-winter survival of fawns and recruitment into the population. The UP is broken into 6 survey units which are estimated to have similar recruitment and at least 400-500 deer are surveyed in each survey unit, including all deer management units.
  - Wildlife staff have been conducting road and occasionally aerial surveys of deer distribution across the U.P. These road surveys provided a quick, inexpensive, and expansive snapshot of the deer wintering locations throughout the region. There is considerable interest in deer winter range and this road survey will provide data for future updates to deer wintering complex boundaries.
- *Spring Wildlife Surveys*
  - Sharp-tailed grouse surveys have begun in the east U.P. with staff in Chippewa County conducting section occupancy surveys within the Sharp-tail hunt zone and other staff conducting traditional lek surveys on known, current, and historic leks to gather information on abundance and distribution.
  - American woodcock peenting surveys begin in late April and May where staff and volunteers conduct call surveys on established routes in the U.P. to use as predictors of trends in woodcock populations. This is a federal survey that Michigan participates in to generate information across the nation.
- *Wolf Population Survey*
  - The DNR is nearing completion of the U.P. wolf population survey (done every other year) using a stratified random sampling technique.
  - The UP is broken into wolf survey units based on wolf density and units are randomly selected each survey year. Staff systematically survey the predefined units using vehicles, snowmobiles, snowshoes, or whatever means possible to effectively find distinct packs and count the number of animals.
  - The survey counts for each unit are entered into a mathematical model and a population estimate is produced. The U.P. wolf population estimate will be derived from this work typically in late April or May and then released to the public.
- *Habitat Planning:* With the hopeful near arrival of spring, the following are projects being planned and prepped by staff in the east U.P.
  - GEMS
    - Habitat plantings (including clover and mast producing shrubs) are being planned at the Halifax GEMS as well as continued infrastructure work including parking lot and gate work, culvert placement, trail maintenance and clearing.
    - Trees and shrubs will be planted in the Strickler GEM in conjunction with various partner groups as in recent years.
  - Deer
    - Hard mast sources such as red oak saplings are being planted in all work units in the EUP. Soft mast sources, including apples are being planted to benefit deer and other wildlife species.

- Red osier dogwood plantings (native deer browse) are being planned in the Sage River deer wintering complex in multiple locations.
- Opening maintenance work is being planned in deer wintering complexes in the Shingleton and Newberry Units.
- *Outreach/Partnerships*
  - Newberry staff are participating in a 4H family event in mid-April that will likely have more than 100 participants.
  - Sault staff are participating in a 4H event in late April.
  - Newberry staff are also offering a 4H class to students ages 9-14 on wildlife, their habitats, tracks and identification.
  - Newberry staff are working with the Tahquamenon Waterfowl Association to do waterfowl plantings in the Blind Sucker Flooding.

### **Forest Resources Division: Jeff Stampfly, Eastern UP Supervisor**

- The 2020 Year of Entry (YOE) inventory is underway with staff gathering field information. Internal review for the proposed projects in the EUP inventory will start in June. Unit open house and compartment review schedules are posted online, along with other state forest inventory information at [www.michigan.gov/forestry](http://www.michigan.gov/forestry).
- Foresters have been working on the 2018 timber sale plan of work. Bidding on offered timber sales has been light, and 3 sales in the EUP went no-bid, though 1 was later picked up.
- There are currently only about 12 active sales in the EUP. With recent cold temperatures, some loggers have been able to continue harvesting low ground timber sales. Most loggers have switched gears and are moving out of the lowland sales to spring break up sales with Class A Road access, as County Road load limit restrictions are in effect.
- FRD staff met with USFS staff April 3 to discuss upcoming work with the USFS on the Good Neighbor Authority. The Hiawatha National Forest expects to have the DNR set up approximately 1,800 acres of timber in 2019 and 2,800 acres in 2020. The Ottawa and Huron-Manistee NF are also planning increases in timber harvesting. This is a significant increase the amount of wood that will be available through GNA. In addition, other work is being planned on USFS land, such as forest inventory, surveying and forest regeneration.
- The Regional State Forest Management Plans (RSFMP) are undergoing a monitoring and review process this year. We are about halfway into the 10-year planning cycle. Public meetings will be held later in the year to discuss any major changes being proposed to the plans.
- EUP staffing changes include transfer of a Forest Technician from Newberry to Shingleton and filling of the Naubinway forester position. The Newberry vacancy will be advertised and filled soon. Interviews were held for the EUP Timber Management Specialist position.
- Cold, snowy weather is delaying the actual fire season in the EUP, but on April 8<sup>th</sup> staff will switch to their spring schedule, which includes staffing on weekends. Staff attended several fire training courses this winter, including the recent S-236 heavy equipment boss training.
- As things warm up and dry out, staff will again be sent down-state for a week at a time to assist with prescribed burning. As opportunities arise, staff will be sent to incidents out-of-state whenever possible to get our personnel more experience and advance their career paths. This is a great way to help our national partners in a time of need, while improving state personnel capabilities.
- Staff are getting ready for spring planting, planning for over 1 million trees in the EUP this year. Cultivation equipment is being prepared through minor repair and maintenance.
- Foresters across the EUP recently completed a Road Inventory project, soon to be reviewed by the public for comment. A public meeting will be held in Newberry in May. More information is available at [www.michigan.gov/forestroads](http://www.michigan.gov/forestroads).
- FRD staff are continuing to work on the Destructive Tree Sampling project, to gather data for the new timber cruise protocol.
- Building maintenance projects are being planned in Newberry, and work is expected to start on the new office in the Sault this spring.

## **Eastern UP Fisheries Division**

### **Field Units (Cory Kovacs, Lake Superior Management Unit)**

- Staff is continuing to complete reports on past fisheries surveys on area lakes and streams. Please contact the Newberry CSC for any reports that may have been completed for your water of interest.
- Staff is preparing for large lake surveys to be conducted on Lac Vieux Desert and Round Lake (Delta County). These are conducted to capture population estimates for Walleye.
- Staff began assisting with spring stocking efforts out of Thompson and Marquette State Fish Hatcheries. Brook Trout, Lake Trout, Splake, and steelhead will be heading down state in the early trips until the ice goes out in the Upper Peninsula.
- Fire-line qualified fisheries staff attended Traffic Incident Management Training (TIM) in Newberry. Objectives of the course were: Responder safety; Safe and Quick Clearance; Prompt, Reliable, Interoperable Communications.
- Conversations and Coffee meetings were held in Newberry (April 3<sup>rd</sup>) and Munising (April 5<sup>th</sup>). Topics for discussion were Yellow Perch daily possession limit, Fishing Tournament Information System, scented bait (materials), and local issues.
- Staff attended the Great Lakes Fish Commission Meeting in Soo, Ontario. State of the Lake reports were given for Lakes Huron, Michigan, and Superior.
- Staff attended the Lake Superior Citizens Fisheries Advisory Committee Meeting April 4<sup>th</sup> in Marquette.

## **Parks & Recreation Division: Eric Cowing, Eastern Supervisor**

### **Fayette Historic State Park**

- Harbor: Ice suppression working as planned on dock; incorporating new amenities in safety plan; general updating.
- Lodge: waterline & fittings on site, waiting for frost to subside to continue digging up line.
- Rangers Paulson & Grzenia recalled to work 3/23/18.
- Events: February 8 & 9 Hilltop RV Camper Show in Escanaba, February 14 NMU Summer Job Fair in Marquette.

### **Muskallonge Lake State Park**

- Seasonal ranger staff have been recalled from furlough. Recruiting for summer staff is underway.
- Campground is scheduled to open semi-modern on April 20, 2018.
- Lake Superior shoreline erosion continues to be a concern. The stairway to Lake Superior has sustained damage from last fall and winter. This area is currently closed indefinitely until a safety assessment is done to determine if repairs can be made.

### **Tahquamenon Falls State Park**

- Upper Falls Water/Sewer Study: Kick off meeting with UP Engineers & Architects is on April 5. They'll be examining the wells & associated water system as well as the lagoon wastewater system to come up with options to handle the increase in water/sewer volume we have experienced over the last several years.
- Lower Falls Boat Concession/Island redevelopment project: Field work will begin as the snow melts. Hoping to have plans in place by the end of the use season, with construction to start in 2019.
- Lower Falls Concession Store Remodel/Replacement project: Kick off meeting scheduled for April 11 with an architect firm who will determine the feasibility of remodeling the existing concession store vs. replacing it.
- Lower Falls Road Seep project: Kick off meeting with UP Engineers & Architects is on April 5. Springs underneath the road has caused the road to fail over a 150' stretch on the hill leading to the Lower Falls. UPEA will be tasked with coming up with options for repair.
- The park manager position remains vacant with interviews expected in mid-April. Seasonal rangers have been recalled and began work at the end of March.
- Camping has slowed considerably with the transition into spring occurring. Day use visitation has remained strong with an abundance of out of state vehicles being noted during the past several weeks.

### **Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island**

- Lime Island dock project (planning & design) will be meeting with DTMB in the spring.
- Detour Village Boating Access Site (BAS) breakwall project (planning & design) will be meeting with DTMB in the spring.

- Received an updated proposal for hazardous material removal for Raber property structures. Waiting for stewardship/SHPO approval and funding.
- Brimley seasonal ranger has been hired back for the season.
- Detour Harbor seasonal rangers have been hired back for the seasons.
- Phones have been busy with campers asking questions/making plans for the upcoming camping season.
- Algonquin and Pine Bowl Pathway winter attendance has slowed because of weather-having more walkers/hikers than skiers because of lack of snow and hard icy trail.
- Shifting ice at Detour State Harbor caused minor damage to the north dock at the shore ramp.
- Timber harvest around Munuscong River State Campground is complete.
- Grooming operations have been suspended for the winter at Algonquin Pathway/Pine Bowl Pathways.
- Still a lot of snow in Brimley State Park...the park is scheduled to open for semi-modern camping on April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended MI Works job fair at LSSU to recruit summer staff. Received applications from a few prospective candidates.

#### Newberry Field Office

- Completed access site dredges at Indian Lake State Park and Round Lake. Removed quite a lot of sand at both places-700 yards at Indian Lake and over 1,000 yards at Round Lake. Brought the excavator back to Escanaba. The side-by-side will go into the shop for service overheating. Conducting inspections on equipment and oil and filter changes. Ten-yard dump in for service and minor repairs. We did have a minor breakdown with the excavator at Round Lake by losing a tooth on the bucket. We ordered five new teeth and received them in five days. The ice was getting pretty thin by end of the dredge but it was completed. The dozer had two hydraulic lines burst but they were fixed in three hours.
- Ranger McAlpine was brought back to assist in the dredging at Round Lake which made things go rather smooth. We are happy to have him back to work so we can accomplish more things in the coming months.
- Campgrounds are not plowed for the winter months so no attendance. Milikokia Lake State Campground continues to have good water samples.
- February was again a little different this year as it was very cold the first part and then a warm snap which hampered the ice making for our dredges. In the long run, everything worked out and we had 30 inches of ice on Indian Lake and started the dredge on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February.

#### Indian Lake & Palms Book State Park

- The contract for the Laughing Whitefish Falls stairway project has been awarded and construction will begin this spring 2018.
- The Newberry construction crew completed a maintenance dredge at the Indian Lake State Park boat ramp.
- All our seasonal rangers have returned from layoff.
- There has been quite a bit of traffic at the Big Spring for this time of year.

#### Straits State Park

- Looking at starting the planning stages for a new toilet shower building at the Mackinac Island Harbor. Will have a kick off meeting mid-April.
- Park staff will be replacing two roofs on the upper toilet shower buildings this spring.
- Working on a slight trail reroute this spring in the Straits campground to gain ADA access to the bridge overlook with a viewing platform planned to be built throughout the summer.
- Parks and recreation received a supplemental to the budget to bring on ranger staff earlier this year and to give rangers 1360 hours a season.
- Trying hard to hire summer state worker staff; if anyone knows folks looking for a summer job send them to the parks to apply.
- Straits State Park had an explorer guide position transferred from a southern park. We are in the process to fill our explorer guide position as well.
- Straits held two winter events that were lightly attended this past winter due to weather for both. Hopefully next season Mother Nature will cooperate.
- Straits will again be hosting a National Wild Turkey Federation day with a BB gun range and then a seminar on turkey hunting.

- Winter attendance has been strong and staff have received a lot of compliments on the groomed trails within the park.
- The Michigan History Center has applied for a \$500,000 National Endowment for Humanities Grant. It will require a \$1.5 million match if awarded. This grant will be for redevelopment of the Father Marquette site within Straits State Park.
- Currently working on an Iron Belle grant funding project for Father Marquette site as well.

#### Trails Section Unit Report – East UP

- *Rail-Trail Projects*
  - Working on purchase of Strong's to Racine Rail Road Corridor.
- *Snowmobile Trail Updates*
  - North of 28 about 6-8 miles has good snow, grooming was done on March 31.
  - Still a few snowmobile users out there.
  - Trail permits are up this year at 139,000 and 2017 was at 124,000 through March. That is an 11% increase. 4,600 were sold in March.
  - 15 fatalities this season, 10 were on trails, 5 were in the EUP and 5 were in the WUP. 4 were for failing to negotiate a curve and 2 rolled on trail, maybe 6 for excessive speed. Alcohol involved on trail, 1 confirmed and 1 suspected. Total alcohol involved were 2 confirmed and 2 suspected. May indicate alcohol is less of a factor.
- *ORV Trail Updates*
  - Spring preseason meeting for grant sponsors went well. Great discussions and great learning experience for the sponsors with detail focused on ORV grant processes.
  - From October through March 2017, there were 28,000 permits sold. In 2018, so far there have been 34,800 permits sold. This is up 14% over last year. 53% of the users purchasing ORV permits are purchasing trail permits also. Both permits are up almost 10% for the month of March over 2017.
- *Equestrian Trail Projects*
  - Getting a trail proposal together for Northern Luce County.
  - UP workshop went well. Participants gained better knowledge of processes for both the DNR and National Forest Service operations. Several participants were from the EUP.
- *Pathway Projects*
  - Shore-To-Shore Chapter of North Country Trail Association is working on a Park-to-Park brochure for Tahquamenon Falls State Park to Muskellunge Lake State Park.
  - A 1.5-mile piece of trail near Reed & Green State Forest Campground was approved through the work instructions process to be rerouted off a very sandy road.
- *Event/Use Permits*
  - Seney Snowmobile Association Vet Ride was held March 10.
- *General*
  - Trail proposals involving the Hiawatha National Forest(NF) are being considered through the Comprehensive Trails Planning effort started earlier in the past year. The process involved setting up trails workgroups, one for East and one for West Hiawatha, made up of public users from 9 different types of trail users to participate and provide information and ideas about updates to the NF trail systems. It is our goal that through participation in these efforts we will be able to improve connectivity, sustainability, and the user experience across the Hiawatha National Forest trails system.
  - Update from the Hiawatha NF: Last week, the EZ specialists completed their initial pre-NEPA review and provided their feedback to the District Ranger, Robert West. At this time the Forest would like to schedule a follow-up TWG meeting so that we can provide the initial feedback and discuss the best way to move forward on the TWG's recommended changes to the Forest trails system. To ensure that Mr. West is available to answer any questions, the Forest will hold this meeting on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm at the Trout Lake Township Hall.

- *Planning Report*

Fayette Historic State Park - New toilet shower building, sanitation station, and on-site sewage disposal project: The project is 100% complete and has been in operation since April 21, 2017. The project budget is \$1,130,000.00.

Fayette Historic State Park - New floating dock with water, electric, and finger piers: The project is 100% complete. A new ice suppression system was installed in December of 2017 and has performed satisfactorily throughout the winter of 2017/2018. The new dock has been accepting reservations for the 2018 use season.

Laughing Whitefish Falls State Park - Structural renovations of the stairway and observation platforms: The DNR has awarded a design contract to Northwest Design Group. The design is 100% complete and was bid out in February of 2018. Contract award is pending. The project has received \$300,000 in design and construction funding from a 2015 Michigan Natural Resources Trust fund grant. Construction is proposed for early summer 2018.

Wagner Falls State Park - ADA parking lot improvements: MDOT & DEQ permits has been approved. Construction is 100% complete. The parking lot was raised to improve safety by reducing entry and exit grades. The parking lot was expanded to allow for 8 vehicular parking spaces with one ADA Accessible space. Additional improvements include a new site sign, kiosk, parking signs, parking bumpers, and improved site drainage.

Nahma Boating Access Site - Ramp replacement: The EUP has been allocated \$200,000 in funding to design and construction services for a concrete launch ramp replacement. The design of a cofferdam to remove and replace the ramp in the dry and the design a sub-base for supporting the new ramp given existing soil conditions. Construction is 100% complete. The site will be open to the public late April / early May 2018.

## **Law Enforcement Division (LED): Lt. Skip Hagy, District 2**

Law Enforcement Division is continuing to move forward with the hiring process for the next CO Academy by conducting interviews and backgrounds on potential candidates. The Academy is slated to start in July. Below are some of the activities officers have been involved in since the Joint CAC in March. Do your part to help our next generation of sportsmen & women learn to do things the right way & safely, they learn by the example you set! Get out and enjoy our great UP!!

### **DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 3-12-18**

- While checking a local lake, **CO Robert Freeborn** contacted a couple of fisherman enjoying the balmy temps and sun. CO Freeborn noticed 4 lines on the ice and asked both fishermen for their fishing licenses. One of the fishermen immediately stated that he was not fishing and did not have a license. CO Freeborn then questioned the second fisherman who stated that it was his extra line and that he would take responsibility. A citation was issued for fishing more than 3 lines.
- **COs Robert Freeborn, Mark Zitnik and Christopher Lynch** worked a busy intersection for snowmobiles. While traffic was on the light side, there were still several violations, including, careless operation, expired snowmobile registration and fail to display registration. Citations were issued for all violations.
- **COs Robert Freeborn, Michael Evink, Mark Zitnik, Calvin Smith, and Colton Gelinis** worked a group snowmobile patrol on a busy Saturday. The COs initially separated into smaller groups to cover more area and eventually met up at a central location to set up a sound meter. While all snowmobiles tested passed the required 88 decibels, the COs did encounter several violations including; fail to attach trail permit, expired snowmobile registration, and fail to obtain trail permit. A total of 7 citations were issued.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** along with several other COs instructed at D2 & D7 first AMT session.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** followed up on an ongoing hunter harassment complaint in Alger County. The complaint advised the CO that the people who were harassing his hunting need to be sent to jail and prosecuted, providing CO Zitnik trail cam pictures of the neighbors walking their dogs on their own property during hunting season.
- **CO Mark Zitnik and Alger Co. Sheriff Dept.** were on snowmobile patrol when they observed a snowmobiler without a trail permit. When speaking with the snowmobilers the officers noticed one snowmobile had his trail permit resting under the windshield and not stuck on the snowmobile and the other rider did not put it on. Enforcement action was taken for failing to affix trail permit.
- **CO Mark Zitnik and Alger Co. Sheriff Dept.** were on snowmobile patrol at a busy intersection. In all, over 100 contacts were made and several verbal warnings. Four citations were issued for careless operation, unregistered snowmobile, fail to display registration, and fail to attach trail permit.

- **CO Jon Busken** attended career fairs at Bay de Noc Community College in Escanaba and Iron Mountain. The officer was able to meet with multiple students who are interested in conservation law enforcement careers.
- **CO Chris Lynch and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon** conducted a patrol on Little Bay de Noc checking ice anglers and snowmobiles. Overall compliance was good, and anglers were happy to see the COs out patrolling.
- **CO Michael Evink** participated with the St. Francis 5<sup>th</sup> Grade class by being the Mystery Reader on Dr. Seuss day. CO Evink read "Oh the Places You'll Go".
- **COs Tom Oberg, Calvin Smith and Sgt. Mike Hammill** patrolled local lakes in the Curtis area checking on ice fishing activity. While on South Manistique Lake, CO Calvin Smith came across an ice shack that was unoccupied and one of the tip ups that was close by had its flag up. CO Smith located six more tip ups in the area and waited nearly an hour before the two fishermen returned. When questioned on why they left their fishing lines unattended, the fishermen replied, "the fishing was slow, and we decided to run back to our cabin". CO Smith then asked them how many lines they could fish with and the fishermen replied, "Three each". CO Smith then pointed out a seventh line that was inside the ice shack and one of the fishermen replied, "oh yeah forgot about that one". Law enforcement action was taken.
- While checking fishing activity on Big Manistique Lake, **COs Calvin Smith, Tom Oberg and Sgt. Mike Hammill** issued citations for fishing without a license and for fishing with more than three lines.
- **COs Tom Oberg and Calvin Smith** assisted the Michigan State Police and Luce County first responders with a snowmobile accident in Northern Luce County. The snowmobiler was operating off trail, lost control and suffered a broken leg.
- **COs Colton Gelinias and Calvin Smith** along with wildlife technician Jayne Meinhard responded to a wolf collar that was giving a mortality signal. The wolf was located nearly two miles from the closest road and it was determined the wolf was killed by a rival wolf pack.
- **COs Colton Gelinias and Calvin Smith** patrolled Luce County's snowmobile trails and issued citations for expired registration, fail to display registration decals and for failing to attach trail permits.
- **CO Tom Oberg** worked a busy Saturday on Munuscong Bay for the annual Last Chance Walleye Tournament. Throughout the day, several citations were issued for individuals fishing with more than the 3 fishing lines that they are allowed by law.
- **COs Mark Zitnik, Calvin Smith, and Colton Gelinias** were on snowmobile patrol in Alger County. The COs made numerous snowmobile contacts, as well as citations for failing to obtain snowmobile trail permits and registration.
- **COs Colton Gelinias and Calvin Smith** were on snowmobile patrol in Luce County when the COs observed an Ohio Snowmobile go by with a 2013 registration. The COs pulled over the snowmobile and it was determined that all three snowmobiles in the group had expired registration and were not aware their snowmobiles needed to be registered. Law Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Kevin Postma and PCO Nick Ingersoll** were patrolling state land in Chippewa County when they observed six trash bags lying on the side of the road. The COs located a name and address within the trash to find out who's it was. After a few days of attempting to contact the individual, they were able to finally talk with her at her residence. A confession was gained from her for throwing the trash on the side of the road, and enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Kevin Postma and PCO Nick Ingersoll** were on ice fishing patrol on Munuscong Bay. The COs contacted a group of anglers who all had three lines in the water. What one of the anglers did not notice was that the COs had been watching him prior to the contact and were able to count four lines in the water that he was using. After further questioning, the angler admitted that he had four lines in the water and enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Kevin Postma and PCO Nick Ingersoll** were on ice fishing patrol on Munuscong Bay. The COs approached one ice fishing shack where two anglers were fishing. The anglers had success prior that day with a northern pike sitting outside the shanty. After the COs started talking with the anglers they noticed a fish behind the door in the shanty that was hidden. The COs asked the anglers to pull the fish out, so they could measure it. After measuring the northern pike, it was found to be under the legal-size limit of 24". The COs asked the two anglers about the fish, and they stated that it was not theirs. They did say that it was their friend's fish who was fishing in another shanty. The COs contacted the other fisherman and questioned him about the fish he speared earlier that day that was undersized. He admitted to spearing it. He thought it was 24" when he speared it, but was mistaken when he measured it. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Kevin Postma and PCO Nick Ingersoll** were leaving the Carp River when they observed a vehicle pass them at a high rate of speed. The COs were able to conduct a traffic stop on the vehicle. After questioning the driver, if there was anything in the car that they needed to know about, the driver stated he had his shotgun hanging in the back. The COs were able to locate an uncased shotgun in the backseat, an open half gallon of Captain Morgan in the front seat, along with two cases of bud light, two 12 packs of craft beer, and a 30 pack of PBR beer in the back seat. Both the driver and the passenger were minors and were questioned about the alcohol. They admitted to it being theirs. The COs made them dump all the alcohol out. A warning was given for possessing an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle, and open intoxicant in a motor vehicle. Enforcement action was taken for the minors being in possession of alcohol.
- **CO Kevin Postma and PCO Nick Ingersoll** were driving through state land when they observed two vehicles parked along the side of the road next to state land. The COs checked the vehicles and were able to locate an open beer in the front seat of one of the trucks and then a gun case in the back of the other. The COs observed from a distance and waited for the hunters to come out of the woods. The COs noticed one of the hunters come out of the woods and contacted him. They questioned him

about his hunt and about the open beer in the front seat of his truck. He admitted to drinking the beer before they went to hunt. A warning was given to him for his open beer. Moments later another hunter was walking out the woods while the COs were talking to the first hunter. The COs observed him stop in the woods and put his orange hat on after not wearing it. The COs were able to contact him and tell him that he needed to keep his hat on always for his safety. A warning was given for not wearing his hunter's orange.

- **CO Kevin Postma and PCO Nick Ingersoll** were on snowmobile patrol when they received a call from dispatch advising of a snowmobile accident. The COs were near the accident and were able to respond. Upon arriving at the accident, they observed a snowmobile that had lost control and collided with a tree. The driver of the snowmobile was already taken to the hospital by Whitefish Twp. EMS. The COs interviewed the riding party, and then assisted with getting the wrecked snowmobile off the trail. The driver of the snowmobile only received minor injuries and is expected to make a full recovery.
- **CO Kevin Postma and PCO Nick Ingersoll** patrolled Munuscong Bay. While checking two ice shanties on the lake they identified the order of marijuana. After questioning the individuals in the shanty about the marijuana, both individuals confessed to having marijuana on them. Enforcement action was taken.

#### DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 3-26-18

- **CO Mark Zitnik** received a call from Alger County dispatch advising of a snowmobiler who had hit a dog on Munising Bay. CO Zitnik responded to the residence and handled the complaint.
- **CO Bobby Watson** completed a background investigation on a hopeful Conservation Officer applicant.
- **CO Watson** assisted in instructing District 2's First Aid Training Session, and took part in D2's Survival Tactics Training Session.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was on patrol in the Garden peninsula when he observed an unlicensed ORV operating down the state highway. A traffic stop was conducted, and enforcement action was taken with the operator.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was on patrol on Little Bay De Noc when he noticed one ice shack where someone was recently fishing, a peak in the window revealed a tip up that was frozen into the ice. The tip up was removed and observed to be baited with a live minnow. CO Lynch contacted the owner at his residence to return the tip up along with a citation for the unattended line.
- **CO Lynch** was on his way to check ice anglers when he observed a truck doing donuts around people who were ice fishing. The truck came up onto shore and headed towards CO Lynch. A traffic stop was conducted and contact with the driver was made. A strong odor of intoxicants came from the cab of the vehicle. The driver stated he was drinking but he didn't think he was drunk. CO Lynch observed an open case of beer between the driver and passenger along with approximately 20 empty cans on the passenger side floor. The driver passed standard field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test and said he just had a long night of drinking. Enforcement action was taken for careless driving of a motor vehicle.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Michael Evink** conducted an interview of a hunter who was suspected of shooting a buck and using a tag of another to tag the deer so he could keep hunting. The hunter confessed to the violations and enforcement action was taken for attempting to take an over limit of bucks and using a kill tag of another.
- **CO Michael Evink** received a complaint of a suspicious vehicle at the edge of a land owner's property. Officer Evink identified the vehicle as belonging to a local family that Officers are familiar with. CO Evink along with a Forest Service Officer, followed footprints and were able to locate an untagged snare on public lands. The investigation is ongoing.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Michael Evink** are working ongoing complaints relating to crop damage deer permits in the Garden Peninsula.
- **CO Kevin Postma and Probationary CO Nick Ingersoll** conducted an ice fishing patrol on Lake George. The COs made several contacts with anglers, and no violations were observed. The anglers were happy to see the COs out patrolling.
- **CO Kevin Postma and Probationary CO Nick Ingersoll** were patrolling down a county road when they observed a 3-wheeler pass them heading the opposite direction. The COs did not notice an ORV registration sticker and could not see the 3-wheeler's taillight. The COs initiated a traffic stop and contacted the driver of the 3-wheeler. After the COs asked the driver for his license, the driver handed them his Michigan identification card. The COs asked him if he was suspended and he said that he was. Enforcement action was taken for driving while license is suspended.
- **CO Kevin Postma and Probationary CO Nick Ingersoll** followed up on a complaint they received from the RAP hotline about someone throwing things at and harassing snowy owls. After a few days of patrolling the area where the complaint came in, the COs were able to identify a subject. The COs interviewed the suspect at his residence. The suspect was a photographer, who was trying to get shots of the snowy owls flying. The COs asked him, if throwing things at the snowy owls was considered harassing. He admitted that it could be considered harassing if they flew away. The COs warned him that harassing snowy owls is illegal, and that if he is harassing the snowy owls he needs to stop. A warning was given for harassing snowy owls.
- **CO Kevin Postma and Probationary CO Nick Ingersoll** patrolled Drummond Island. The COs made several contacts with anglers on Scotts Bay. The COs gave warnings for Fail to Display ORV registration and Fail to attach Snowmobile Registration. Overall the anglers were happy to see the COs out patrolling.
- **COs Colton Gelinias and Calvin Smith** responded to a residential house alarm in Mackinac County. Upon further investigation it was determined that the homeowner was not in distress and accidentally pressed the 911 button on the telephone.
- **COs Colton Gelinias, Calvin Smith and Mark Zitnik** participated in Cops vs Robbers Basketball Fundraiser at Engadine High School. All proceeds of the fundraiser went to Engadine's Senior Class.

- **COs Colton Gelinias and Calvin Smith** were checking ice fishermen in Mackinac County. The COs contacted a group of anglers and it was determined the anglers were fishing with too many lines. Law Enforcement action was taken.

#### DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 4-9-18

- **COs Calvin Smith, Tom Oberg, and Colton Gelinias** attended a 2-day RADAR Training class held at Camp Grayling, along with several other Conservation Officers around Michigan. The training was designed to teach COs how to effectively use Radars during their daily patrols and to enforce speeding violations on snowmobile, ORV, and marine.
- **CO Tom Oberg** received a complaint of an individual, who was not a tribal member, spearing Rainbow Trout on Lake Superior near Pendills Creek. CO Oberg patrolled to the location and contacted the suspect. After a short interview with the suspect about who speared the fish, CO Oberg received a confession from the suspect that he was the one who speared it. It was found the suspect was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians but did not have a subsistence fishing license. Therefore, the suspect had to follow state regulations on the Great Lakes. CO Oberg seized the fish and spear that was used and the evidence was turned over to the Tribe. A report is being compiled by CO Oberg and will be submitted to the Tribal Prosecutor for review.
- **COs Calvin Smith and Colton Gelinias** conducted a taxidermy inspection in Mackinac County. During the inspection the COs observed a finished 6-point mount, the deer license was not notched. The COs went to the license holder's residence to question about the deer. After further investigation it was determined that the suspect shot the deer on a Monday evening and purchased their tag the following morning. Law Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Calvin Smith and Colton Gelinias** were at the Newberry Field Office when they heard a dirt bike operating on M-123. The COs looked outside the window of the office and noticed the operator of the dirt bike was not only on a state highway but, also did not have a helmet on. The COs contacted the operator who stated that he was test driving the dirt bike because he wanted to buy it. The COs explained to him that a helmet must be worn while operating the dirt bike, also that ORVs are not allowed to operate on a state highway and must have a valid ORV Registration as well. Law Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Calvin Smith and Colton Gelinias** checked several snowmobiles taking advantage of the recent April snowfall.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Nick Ingersoll** conducted taxidermy inspections and found high compliance in record keeping of specimens.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Nick Ingersoll** assisted an MSP Motor carrier officer with a traffic stop where suspected illegal drugs were involved.
- **CO Kevin Postma and PCO Nick Ingersoll** were on patrol at Hessel Bay in Mackinac County. The COs contacted several anglers out ice fishing. One angler that was contacted was fishing with four jig poles inside his shanty. The COs questioned the angler, asking him if he knew how many lines he was allowed to have in the water at one time. The angler said that he did and that it was three lines. Enforcement action was taken for fishing with more than three lines.
- **CO Kevin Postma and PCO Nick Ingersoll** followed up on a complaint that someone was setting nets in Lake George. The COs were able to locate one net on the lake and it was determined that the net belonged to a tribal member. The net was set and marked legally and no violations were observed.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was conducting a taxidermy inspection when he noticed one individual brought in 2 bears, one for himself and one for his sister. After further investigation CO Lynch located several suspicious things pertaining to the situation. CO Lynch and CO Bobby Watson first followed up with the sister then the brother. Confessions were obtained from both individuals on what happened. The sister loaned her bear tag to her brother after he shot 1 bear, then the brother went and shot a 2<sup>nd</sup> bear in the 2017 bear season. CO Lynch noticed the sister also registered bear in the past but there was only one problem, she said she has never shot a bear before. She confessed she has also loaned bear tags to her brother in the past when he didn't have a bear license. The rifle used to kill the illegal bears was seized along with the illegal bears. After running a background check on the suspects, it was discovered the brother has been arrested in the past for illegal bear hunting. A report will be submitted to the Marquette County Prosecutors office with the following requested charges; taking an over limit of bear, taking bear without a license, hunting bears no license, and using a kill tag of another.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was following up on intake receipts from a meat processor inspection when it was noticed one hunter from Wisconsin didn't have a license. A check on the hunter's Facebook page showed him proudly holding his trophy buck. CO Lynch notified a Wisconsin game warden whom followed up with the hunter and received a confession from the hunter that he shot the deer without a license and then used someone else's tag to bring it to the meat processor and taxidermy. CO Lynch located the trophy buck at the taxidermy to confirm it wasn't the Wisconsin hunter's own deer tag on the deer. CO Lynch and CO Jeremy Sergey met up with the Wisconsin hunter in Menominee MI. The hunter was issued multiple tickets for his illegal hunting activities. A background check was run on the hunter and it was discovered he had a warrant out for his arrest. Luckily the hunter was able to post the required cash bond, so he didn't have to go to jail.
- **CO Bobby Watson** contacted a fisherman on Little Bay De Noc on April 1<sup>st</sup>, the first day of the new fishing license year. CO Watson asked the fisherman to provide a 2018 fishing license and informed the fisherman that his ORV registration sticker was also expired. The fisherman stated he had forgotten he needed to renew his license. CO Watson was planning to give a warning to the fisherman and proceeded to make small talk with the man. Throughout the conversation, the man stated that he had

planned on renewing his fishing license but instead decided to roll the dice and risk fishing without a valid license. CO Watson then realized the man knowingly fished without a license and valid ORV registration. Enforcement action was taken.

- **CO Bobby Watson** was working a late season snowmobile patrol with CO Zitnik when contact was made with two young riders at a trail intersection. Neither rider possessed a valid trail permit. The young men stated they did not plan on riding this late in the season but decided to last minute. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Bobby Watson and Chris Lynch along with Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon** assisted in conducting a Delta County Hunter Education Class.
- **COs Mark Zitnik and Bobby Watson** were working a busy snowmobile intersection addressing snowmobile violations. In all, over 70 snowmobilers were contacted trying to get their last ride in for the year. Several warnings were given, and 3 citations were issued for no trail permits and unregistered snowmobile.
- **CO Michael Evink** received a complaint of an individual who was catching walleye out of season and keeping more than the law allows. Officer Evink watched Indian lake and located a subject fishing. CO Evink watched the individual until it was clear that violations were present. Contact was made, and the suspect was fishing 6 lines. While not the fisherman from the complaint, it was still a productive contact.
- **CO Michael Evink** was spending his second evening in a row looking for a suspect who was fishing too many lines and keeping under sized fish. Officer Evink was able to locate the suspect truck on the lake and identified violations from a hidden location on shore. With the help of a concerned observer letting Officer Evink know when the suspect left, CO Evink was able to conduct a traffic stop and take enforcement action.

### **Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Education Services Section**

- Help us spread the word to teachers you know. The Academy of Natural resources offers educators the opportunity to learn about Michigan's diverse natural resources, discover current trends in their management and experience activities that bring knowledge to the classroom. We offer two week-long programs that qualify for both SCECH Credits (Michigan Department of Education) and graduate credits (Ferris State University). ANR classic is held at the Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center on Higgins Lake on July 8-13 and ANR North takes place at Michigan Tech University's Ford Center near Baraga on August 5-10. Scholarships are available. Learn more at [www.michigan.gov/ANR](http://www.michigan.gov/ANR).
- We are filling slots quickly right now for spring school programs. Between now and the end of the first week of June, we will have hosted nearly 50,000 school children at state parks and state hatcheries for conservation-focused programming.
- Education Services continues to look for qualified candidates for jobs as Seasonal Interpreters, Explorer Guides (seasonal programming staff) and maintenance staff at the Porcupine Mountains, McLain, Van Riper, Bewabic, Baraga, Wells, Indian Lake, Tahquamenon Falls and Brimley State Parks as well as 47 additional parks and state fish hatcheries in the Lower Peninsula.

### **Public Information Office: John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer**

- Upcoming episodes of "Ask the DNR" are scheduled for 8 p.m. April 19 and May 17. The shows are available online after the original air dates at WNMU-TV13's website, search for "Ask the DNR." This month's panelists will include Upper Peninsula representative on the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, J.R. Richardson of Ontonagon. The May program will feature Deputy DNR Director Bill O'Neill, who will be coming up from Lansing for the program. This will be a great opportunity to get your questions to one of the DNR's top officers.
- We will be showcasing Michigan's state parks in a weekly series set to run throughout the summer in The Mining Journal. This will be a full-page DNR presentation, with an article and photos each week profiling a different part of our region. I will be writing the articles for us, with the input from DNR staffers.
- Efforts continue to develop a department-wide messaging strategy. I have been a part of these discussions and we are moving ahead with a good crew of DNR staff who care a great deal about the subject and achieving success.
- As usual, any ideas for our weekly Showcasing the DNR feature articles series, please contact me at 906-226-1352 or [pepinj@michigan.gov](mailto:pepinj@michigan.gov).