



## Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

**Date of Production: June 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***

- June 6 Eastern UP Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting, Little Bear Arena–St. Ignace, 6:00pm
- June 13 UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, DNR Office–Marquette, 6:00pm
- June 14 UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, Wyman Nursery–Manistique, 6:00pm
- June 14 Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing
- June 20 State Forest Open House–Baraga Unit, DNR Office–Baraga, 3–6:00pm
- July 12 Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing
- July 17 Western UP Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting, MTU–Houghton

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

- June 9–10 DNR's Summer Free Fishing Weekend
- June 9 Baraga State Park–Baraga County Lake Trout Festival
- June 9 Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park–Create a Mini–Weaving
- June 16 Wells State Park–Craft Campers Arts and Crafts Sale
- June 16 Fayette Historic State Park–Christmas in June
- June 23 Tahquamenon Falls State Park–Two Hearted Trail Run
- June 23 Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park–Mixed Media Star Fairy, Needle Felted Journal Cover, and Creating Writing
- June 30 Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park–UP Sun Catcher
- July 3–4 Wells State Park–4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration
- July 4 Baraga State Park–4<sup>th</sup> of July Festivities
- July 4 Fort Wilkins Historic State Park–Reading of the Declaration of Independence
- July 4 Van Riper State Park–4<sup>th</sup> of July Jubilation
- July 14 Baraga State Park–Kayaking 101 and 102
- July 20 Indian Lake State Park–Musician Bob Hausler
- July 21 Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park–Stitching and Dyeing the Shibori Way
- July 22 Fort Wilkins Historic State Park–Eagle Harbor Life Saving Station Open House
- July 22 Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park–UP Stepping Stone in Stained Glass
- July 26 Straits State Park–NWTF Intro to Turkey Hunting Clinic
- July 27 Indian Lake State Park–NWTF Intro to Turkey Hunting Clinic
- July 27–28 Baraga State Park–Christmas In July
- July 27–28 Wells State Park–Christmas in July
- July 27–29 Fort Wilkins Historic State Park–Battery D Michigan Light Artillery Living History Civil War Encampment
- July 28 Palms Book State Park–Family Fun Day
- August 13–19 DNR Pocket Park Open during the UP State Fair–**PLEASE VOLUNTEER!**

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## Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- Michigan's forest health highlights report is now available (5/25/18)
- DNR-led search teams find Ontonagon County man (5/25/18)
- Birds of prey program gets top-billing at Porkies this weekend (5/22/18)
- Great Lakes states collaborate on West Nile virus monitoring in ruffed grouse (5/21/18)
- Three Michigan state parks to offer water parks this summer (5/16/18)
- Fire danger increasing across the Upper Peninsula (5/16/18)
- Popular trail closed at Tahquamenon Falls State Park (5/14/18)
- Michigan fire danger escalates; take precautions while burning (5/11/18)
- Oman Creek boating access site, Black River Harbor, and Saxon Harbor to close for renovations (5/10/18)
- Delta County prescribed burn first conducted for historical purposes (5/10/18)
- Public meetings May 14-17 on ORV rules for UP state forest roads (5/8/18)
- Trio of biologists set to present at songbird forum in Marquette County (5/7/18)
- Conservation officers rescue woman in Baraga County (5/7/18)
- Check out our video of Thompson State Fish Hatchery (5/5/18)
- Are you excited for the 2018 Summer Free Fishing Weekend? (5/5/18)
- Help shape the future of Fayette Historic State Park (5/2/18)
- \$3.6 million in grants available to battle invasive species in Michigan (5/2/18)

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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>

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

The Natural Resources Commission met Thursday, May 10, at Kirkbride Hall at The Village at Grand Traverse Commons in Traverse City. Major actions:

Fisheries Order 200.18A, proposed new statewide trout, salmon, whitefish, lake herring and smelt regulation, was held over by the commission until the June NRC meeting. The commission approved, as amended, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 6 of 2018, deer management assistant permit regulations. Amendment changed the dates for the quiet period during the firearm exception from October 27 through November 9, to the last three full weekends, being Friday, Saturday and Sunday, prior to November 10.

Director Keith Creagh approved an order to regulate the locations where a recreation passport is required for entry (Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 2 of 2018); and order to regulate specific vehicle types and recreational use on the Escanaba-Hermansville Grade located in Delta and Menominee counties in the Upper Peninsula (Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 3 of 2018). The director also approved six land transactions. Details can be found in the NRC agenda.

The first meeting of the day was the NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries. Fisheries Division Chief Jim Dexter gave a brief update on egg-take, reporting on the number of eggs collected and the location for

steelhead and walleye. Dexter noted the egg collections were delayed this year by a late spring. He said the May 3 Bay de Noc walleye egg-take was the latest ever. In an update for 2018 stocking, Dexter said the department is on target to meet all requests, but the delayed spring has put the stocking 1-2 weeks behind. Dexter then gave a detailed update on the reintroduction of the arctic grayling in Michigan. He explained the general timeline and talked about a fundraising goal of \$1.1 million announcing that, to date, \$368,000 has been pledged by several organizations. An update on Michigan's Fishing Tournament Information System was also given and talked about a program expansion proposal and outreach efforts.

Wildlife Division Chief Russ Mason talked about the success of the current strategy to market the Pure Michigan Hunt, gave updates on the turkey season and deer in the Upper Peninsula, as well as the Eastern Elk Management Workshop. Mason also talked about the allowable number of days for hunting ducks, indicating only 29 days for falconry dates, not 35 days like the 2017-18 dates, a net lost of six days due to additional days for teal season. Mason also discussed an adjustment to the 2018-19 additional falconry dates to December 31 to January 12, 2019, and February 23 to March 10, 2019, aligning the Wildlife Conservation Order with federal framework. Mason gave an update on the squirrel season, extending the season to March 31 (current season is September 15 to March 1), which will align with the current rabbit season. The change will provide additional recreational opportunities for squirrel hunters. He said the change was requested by the Michigan Hunting Dog Federation.

Adam Bump, furbearer specialist, gave a presentation on furbearer regulations. He talked about bobcat issues, including hunting at night, hunting from a tree stand and snaring. Recommendations are no changes. There is a recommendation for a reduction to one bobcat limit statewide. Also a recommendation of no change to the U.P. bobcat trapping season structure. Bump also talked about the fisher hunting season and a fisher season on Drummond Island, with a recommendation of no change. Increasing the marten bag limit was recommended but with season length reduction. Stakeholder priority issues were listed as: otter bag limits, mink snaring, keep incidental mink in colony traps, eliminate hunter orange requirement for predator hunting with dogs, eliminate "quite period," beaver/otter season, and trapping in muskrat "push ups."

A brief presentation was given by Sarah Cummins, acting Wildlife policy and management section supervisor, on open/closed DMUs for the 2018 hunting season. Highlights were:

- No changes to open/closed areas other than splitting them out at the county level; no change in status
- Administrative change to define DMUs that will be open or closed for the 2018 deer hunting season
- Eliminate multi-county DMUs where CWD has been identified and revert to individual county DMUs
- Eliminating DMU 333 and DMU 419 and reverting to individual county DMUs
- Eliminating DMU 354 and DMU 359 and reverting to individual county DMUs
- Eliminating DMU 341 and reverting to individual county DMUs
- Eliminating DMU 361 and reverting to individual county DMUs
- Open DMUs located outside these areas will continue to be available by lottery and must be identified by June

During the Director's Report in the Committee of the Whole, Jackie Blodgett, PRD assistant chief, gave an update on parks and trails.

#### Iron Belle Trail – April 17, 2018

- On April 17, 2018 Gov. Rick Snyder attend an Iron Belle Trail event at Gallup Park in Ann Arbor. The Governor recognized the Wilson Foundation and Michael Levine for funding commitments of \$10.5 million and also the Karen's Trail campaign for their significant funding commitments to Michigan's Iron Belle Trail. He praised the donors and spoke about the next phase of development and the \$155 million fundraising efforts that will be used for engineering, development, signage and for leveraging other donations.
- 2019 total miles biking and hiking from Belle Isle to Ironwood - 68% complete

### Belle Isle Spring Clean-Up Day – April 21, 2018

- Many of our state parks are working with volunteer groups on spring cleanup days, but one of the largest gathering was on April 21st at Belle Isle Park.
- A total of over 1,200 volunteers on this one-day event in partnership with the Belle Isle Conservancy.
- There were 45 kayakers cleaning up the inland waters, 16 professional arborists, many groups, with an increase in local youth attending, a boxing gym, high school students and the YMCA to name a few. Over 360 people registered the morning of the event. The Spring Clean-up planning committee members and active Belle Isle Park Volunteers all worked to make this day a success.
- To put it into perspective, if we to paid everyone who attended Saturday a modest minimum wage (\$9.25/hour) for their work, it would have cost the park \$44,400 in labor for the work completed.

### Weather Delays – Statewide

- The snow and ice storms delayed the openings of many of our campgrounds. The hardest hit parks were in the Western UP, Eastern UP and Gaylord Districts. Many of the campsites are still wet, but the staff are working hard to get the sites ready now that the snow is melted.
- Projections show roughly a 21% decrease in revenue this spring compared to last spring, but this can be made up now that parks are able to open, and visitors are ready to be outside.

### Performance Information

- Thru March, 31.3% of eligible persons purchased Recreation Passports (RP's) vs. 28.9% in 2017 – 2.4% gain
- Net gain of 2,959 RP's Churn Rate Mar 17 to Mar 18
- SOS sold RP's +1.83% Statewide, +1.90% Detroit
- Total FY18 Lodging Reservation nights -7,518 (-1.0%) thru April
  - **Total** net nights thru April are down 7,518 or -1.0%
  - **Total** reservations thru April (booking transactions) are up 6,071 +3.3%
  - Memorial Day compared to last year – down roughly 7% - comparing actual 2017 to reserved nights 2018
- Total FY18 Harbor Reservation nights +1,852 (+16.5%) thru April
- FY18 ORV License Sales -10,248 (-10.9%), Trail Use Sales -10,369 (-15.4%) thru April
- FY18 Snowmobile Permit Sales +14,421 (+11.4%) thru April

Jackie provided an update to a plan that originated with the Michigan Waterways Commission to charge a fee for paddle craft, including kayaks, canoes, and paddle boards. She reported that April 25, the Waterways Commission reviewed feedback from legislators and public input received at an earlier stakeholders meeting held in January. After the review, the Waterways Commission adopted an amended resolution and plan to no longer pursue a fee for paddle sport craft at this time but to continue the planning process.

Jon Allan, director of the Office of the Great Lakes, gave updates on the Cuttle Creek restoration in Marysville; cleanup and remediation efforts on the area of concern on the Menominee River shared between Michigan and Wisconsin; \$980,000 GLRI funds awarded to Michigan for restoration of rock reefs on Saginaw Bay; and the Racine water withdrawal application approved by the Wisconsin DNR April 25 to withdraw Lake Michigan water for Mt. Pleasant, Wisconsin, the area designated for the future FoxConn facility. He noted that Michigan has submitted questions on the WDNR analysis.

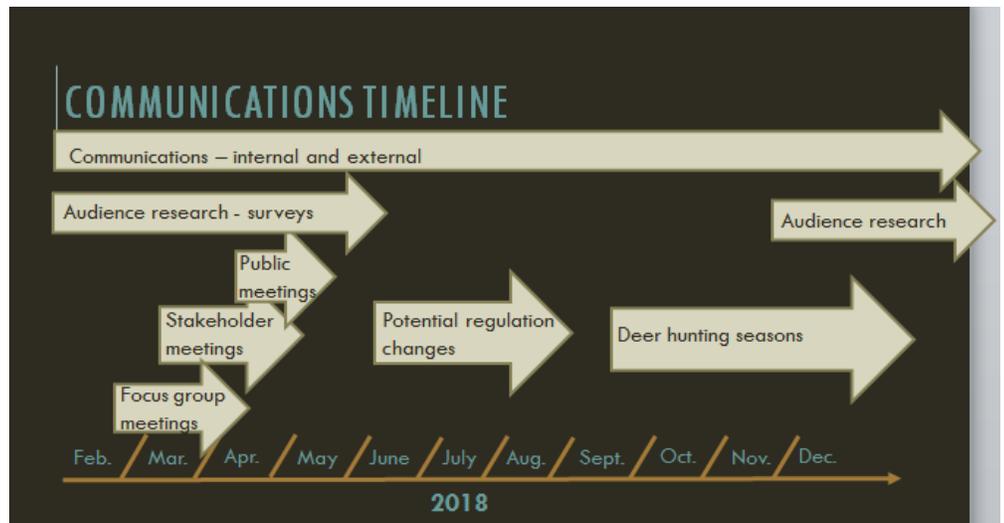
Michigan Wildlife Council member Ed Roy gave an update on the Michigan Wildlife Council's education campaign with GÜD Marketing.

Deb Begalle, chief of the Forest Resources Division, gave an update as follows:

- To date in 2018, 121 fires have turned 760 acres; the 10-year average for spring is 111 fires burning 855 acres.
- There have been 48 prescribed burns this year of a total of 3,466 acres; 10-year average is approximately 10,000 acres in 100 burns each year.
- There is \$2 million in new equipment coming to the department.
- There have been three out-of-state assignments so far this year; there were over 130 during 2017.

Deb also highlighted 2018 accomplishments for the department, reporting that more than six million seedlings have been planted; the department was honored with a leadership award by the Forest Stewardship Council for being one of the longest-standing FSC-certified forest managers in the Lake States region, with almost four million acres of FSC-certified forest. Begalle also reported that startup of the new lumber processing company in Grayling, Arauco, is scheduled for September 18 and will employ 210 people and be the largest particleboard mill in North America. Begalle also gave an update on the public information campaign that's in the second phase, noting digital billboards, radio promotions and live events, bar coasters with forestry trivia, and digital ads and "You need a tree" jingle.

Deputy Bill O'Neill and Chad Stewart, Wildlife biologist, gave a Chronic Wasting Disease update, including working group recommendation; CWD management goals; public engagement and communications with focus groups, public meetings, tribal consultations and surveys; regulations, surveillance and more, including length of season, registration requirements, baiting and feeding, antlerless quotas, antler point restrictions, deer processing, carcass movement and disposal, sharpshooting, etc.



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

**May 2018 Legislative Update – Anna Mooney , Legislative & Legal Affairs Office**

**PAs 116 and 117 (HB 5001-5002) – Registered Forester – Rep. Rendon**

These acts 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.

**SB 551 – MNRTF Recommendations – Sen. Hildenbrand**

This bill seeks to amend Part 19 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to clarify how the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board will determine the amount of money to be made available each year for funding of projects. The group that would provide guidance to the Board in the amount of money to make available would be comprised of the Governor, State Treasurer, Senate Majority Leader, Speaker of the House of Representatives or their designees and a member of the Board.

- This bill passed the Senate for a second time and was referred to the House for concurrence.

**SB 883 – Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) 2018 – Sen. Booher**

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, this bill would appropriate \$40.4 million from the MNRTF for 34 acquisition projects (approximately \$21.4 million) and 89 development projects (approximately \$19 million).

- This bill passed the Senate and was referred to the House Committee on Appropriations.
- 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 passed the House of Representatives and was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- 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 with a firearm on public land. This bill would also prompt the NRC to consider affording the same opportunity on public land to individuals with a Mentored Youth Hunting license.

- This bill passed the House of Representatives and was referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

### **HB 5417 – Transporting of a Bow – Rep. Johnson**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to transport a bow or crossbow in their vehicle without having to be unstrung, enclosed in a case or carried in the trunk of the car.

- This bill was reported from the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism and is awaiting a vote on the Senate Floor.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

### **HB 5836 –Electronic Boater’s Safety Certificate– Rep. Marino**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual that is required to display their boater’s safety certificate upon request when operating a motorboat to do so electronically. The bill would also require the Secretary of State to develop an integrated database system that would allow law enforcement agencies to verify that an individual has obtained a boater’s safety certificate.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

### **HB 5854-5855 – Voluntary Wetland Restoration Program– Rep. Howell and Bellino**

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to create a Voluntary Wetland Restoration Program within the Department of Natural Resources. The program would be required to enhance coordination, consistency and operational procedures to improve and streamline the permitting process to facilitate a net gain in wetland quantity and/or quality.

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

### **HB 5866 – Sport Fishing – Rep. Bellino**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to make several clarifications in decision making authority from the department to the commission in the section of law pertaining to sport fishing.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

### **HB 5889 – Lake Level Assessments -- Rep. VanSingel**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow the department to pay the lake level assessments on purchased lands, owned by the department, through special assessments.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

If you would like to learn more about these and other bills, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov).

## Western UPCAC Update

The Western UP Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting was held on Thursday, May 17 in Ironwood. The following were agenda items:

- Annual Elections of Officers (tabled until July for quorum vote)
- UP Wildlife Habitat Workgroup Update
- CWD Public Engagement
- Proposed Marquette County Shooting Range Update
- Oman Creek Update
- UP Road Inventory (PA 288) Public Meetings
- Crossbows
- Invasive Carp Update
- Committee Reports

The next WUPCAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at MTU in Houghton.

## Division Updates

### **EUP Wildlife Division: Terry Minzey, Wildlife Supervisor (prepared by David Jentoft, Biologist)**

- Wildlife Surveys
  - Sharp-tailed grouse surveys were conducted in the east U.P. Chippewa County staff and a partnering agency conducted a section occupancy survey within the sharptail hunt zone. Staff, partnering agencies, and volunteers in other areas conducted a traditional lek survey on known, current, and historic leks to gather information on abundance and distribution. Results are in the process of being analyzed and will be available in the summer.
  - American woodcock singing-ground surveys were conducted in late April and May. Staff survey on established routes in the U.P. Results are used as predictors of trends in woodcock populations. This is a federal survey that Michigan participates in to generate information across the nation. Results will be published by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service later this year.
  - Staff have also conducted a spring fawn recruitment index. The spring fawn-to-total deer survey provides an index of over-winter survival of fawns and recruitment into the population. The U.P. 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. The survey includes all deer management units.
- GEMS Activities this Spring
  - Garden Grade GEMS—Delta Co.: 650 burr oak were planted by Shingleton Unit staff.
  - Halifax GEMS—Luce Co.: 400 red oak, 20 apple trees, and 225 shrubs are being planted, clover will be planted on trails soon.
  - Strickler GEMS—Mackinac Co.: 300 trees and shrubs were planted during a habitat event involving the Engadine Schools, Ruffed Grouse Society, Michigan Sharp-tailed Grouse Association, Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac Conservation District, Straits Area Sportsmen's Club, & DNR Wildlife & Forest Resources divisions.
- Other Spring Habitat Projects
  - 1,235 red oak were planted in the Big Springs deer wintering complex in the Shingleton Unit.
  - 100 crabapple trees were planted around a break-out area in the Big Springs deer wintering complex in the Shingleton Unit during a habitat event with U.P. Whitetails of Schoolcraft County.
  - 165 red-osier dogwood were planted in deer wintering complex near Soo Junction during a habitat event involving the Tahquamenon Sportsmen's Club in the Newberry Unit.
  - 400 red oak and 20 apple trees are being planted to enhance deer habitat in Luce County in the Newberry Unit.
  - 100 red and white oak saplings were planted near deer wintering complex on Drummond Island in the Sault Ste. Marie Unit during a habitat event involving the Drummond Island Elementary School, Drummond Island Sportsmen's Club, Ruffed Grouse Society, Michigan Sharp-tailed Grouse Association, Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac Conservation District, & DNR Wildlife & Forest Resources staff.

- A prescribed burn was conducted in an over 200-acre opening on Drummond Island in the Sault Ste. Marie Unit for openings maintenance to benefit species ranging from sharp-tailed grouse to white-tailed deer.
- Outreach
  - Newberry Unit staff presented on animal tracks and making plaster casts at 2 separate youth events: Luce County 4H Break for Knowledge event & a program at the Curtis Public Library.
  - Newberry Unit staff are instructing in an on-going 4H wildlife program in Luce County.
  - Sault Ste. Marie Unit staff gave a hands-on wildlife presentation to youth during a 4H Family event in Chippewa County.
  - Shingleton Unit staff participated in a career day at Munising High School.
- Wildlife Calls
  - Newborn fawns will be seen soon, and every year there are calls from folks concerned about abandoned fawns. It's normally best to leave them be. Mothers leave their fawns for extended periods at times to protect them from predators, and the majority of what appear to be abandoned fawns are not abandoned.
  - Nuisance wildlife calls, particularly for bears, are common in spring and summer. Most nuisance issues are resolved by removing potential food sources, such as bird feeders and garbage.
- West Nile Virus
  - It is a mosquito-borne virus that primarily infects and multiplies in birds. It is carried by birds and is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito.
  - Members of the corvid family (crows, blue jays and ravens) are most severely impacted by West Nile virus, although it can infect and cause illness in horses, humans and other birds and mammals.
  - In 2017, the DNR confirmed the presence of West Nile Virus in the state's ruffed grouse population as 5 ruffed grouse that had been submitted for testing were confirmed to have the virus.
  - West Nile Virus is primarily transmitted to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes. Most people infected with the virus do not show symptoms.
  - There is no evidence of human infection from eating properly cooked game that has been infected with West Nile Virus. As a general precaution, wild game meat should be cooked thoroughly, to an internal temperature of 170-180 degrees. Hunters should wear gloves when handling or cleaning game.
  - If you see sick or dead wildlife near your home, you can report sightings to the DNR. To submit a ruffed grouse suspected for West Nile Virus for disease testing, contact your local DNR office to make arrangements to do so.

## **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 which is slated to start in July final interviews are being completed with a target of around 32 recruits. Officers have had a busy spring and kick-off of the fishing season. They have also responded to several fires that have escaped during these very dry conditions most started by people conducting illegal burning activity, several tickets have been issued.

Below are some of the activities officers have been involved in since the Joint CAC in April.

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 4/9/2018 – 4/21/2018**

- **CO Bobby Watson** was checking a local boat launch on the Escanaba River when contact was made with a group of young fishermen. One of the fisherman appeared very nervous throughout the contact. When CO Watson requested the subject to produce a fishing license, the man was unable to produce a 2018 license. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Bobby Watson** was checking a local boat launch when contact was made with a group of fishermen. CO Watson immediately noticed a pellet gun lying on the picnic table near the fishermen. After checking fishing licenses and surrounding area for any fish or harvested animals, CO Watson inquired as to why they had a pellet gun. One of the men stated it was for shooting cormorants if any swam by. CO Watson confirmed that no cormorants had swum by yet and informed the man it was illegal to shoot them.

- **COs Colton Gelinias and Calvin Smith** were checking ice fishermen on Lake Superior. CO Gelinias contacted a fisherman who had five whitefish in his possession. During his contact, He observed blood next to the shanty. After moving some snow, he observed 14 whitefish heads. When questioned about the heads it was discovered that the fisherman brought his over limit of fish to shore. The fish were recovered from shore and a citation for over limit of whitefish was issued, the whitefish were seized and donated to local families in need.
- **CO Colton Gelinias** received a Report All Poaching complaint regarding a turkey being killed out of season in Mackinac County. CO Gelinias contacted the complainant who stated that he watched his neighbor shoot a turkey. CO Gelinias contacted the suspect about the killing of the turkey. During the investigation the suspect admitted to shooting the turkey with a rifle. A report has been filed with the Mackinac County Prosecutor's Office.
- **COs Calvin Smith and Colton Gelinias** participated in the 4-H program in Newberry. The COs held a survival booth at the event and assisted the students in making survival kits.
- **COs Calvin Smith and Colton Gelinias** participated in the Tackle Party held by the Newberry Sportsmen Club. The COs ran the fishing game where kids of all ages tried to catch plastic fish that were on the gym floor. The game tested the kids' casting abilities, as well as reeling in fish.
- **CO Michael Evink and Forest Service Officer Tembreull** stopped two side-by-sides for operating on the paved portion of the roadway. Both vehicles had loads of firewood in the back. It turned out the wood cutters had proper ORV stickers and firewood permits. Warnings were given to the operation on the roadway due to the soft nature of the shoulder.
- **COs Colton Gelinias, Mark Zitnik and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon** participated in a Cops vs. Robbers basketball fundraiser at Munising High School. All proceeds went to the Munising Senior Class.
- While on patrol on Drummond Island, **CO Tom Oberg** observed a 4-wheeler coming towards him. The driver was not wearing a helmet. CO Oberg stopped the 4-wheeler and found the driver did not have valid ORV stickers on the machine. When questioned, the driver stated he had forgotten to put the helmet on and was on his way to get ORV tickers. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Tom Oberg** patrolled a busy Saturday on Drummond Island for the annual "Jeep the Mac" event. Approximately 800 Jeeps ventured across the Mackinac Bridge and made their destination onto Drummond Island. No serious issues developed during the weekend with the busy crowd and many people were glad to see law enforcement present.
- **COs Colton Gelinias and Calvin Smith** attended the Straits Area Sportsmen's Club meeting and answered questions pertaining to CWD, new fishing regulations and other recreational issues.
- **CO Calvin Smith and Cpl. Kevin Postma** attended the St. Mary's Walleye Club meeting where the topic at hand was fishing regulations on the St. Mary's river system. Over 80 people attended the meeting.
- **CO Calvin Smith** was contacted by a local trapper who had found a deceased bald eagle on the river bank. CO Smith retrieved the eagle and it appears the eagle died from natural causes.
- **CO Calvin Smith** was a guest participant on Ask the DNR. The program is an hour-long, live television show where the public can call and ask questions.
- **CO Chris Lynch and Cpl. Mike Hammill** served an arrest warrant on a subject for illegally taking multiple deer. The warrant was served without incident.

#### DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 4/22/2018 – 5/5/2018

- **CO Bobby Watson** conducted multiple patrols for late night fish runs. Contacts were made and some warnings were given for various violations.
- **CO Michael Evink** received information that someone had been spearing walleye in the Manistique River late at night. CO Evink conducted a foot patrol of the area and watched during the reported time frame. Late into the surveillance he observed two individuals in the water with lights. One individual was clearly attempting to spear fish. This activity went on for over an hour. As the individuals left CO Evink identified himself and ordered the driver of the vehicle to stop, he did not. CO Evink was able to identify the driver, and with the help of Manistique Public Safety locate the vehicle and driver. Charges are being sought in connection with the incident.
- **CO Michael Evink** assisted with a local hunter's safety class in Manistique and assisted with the adjoining field day.
- **COs Calvin Smith and Mark Zitnik** attended a career fair for the Alger County Parks and Recreation. Students from Munising High School, Superior Central High School, and Grand Marais Schools attended the career fair.
- **Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon, COs Rob Freeborn, and Mark Zitnik** attended an Alger County ORV meeting to discuss local ordinances and trail updates for people operating ORVs in Alger County and surrounding areas.
- **COs Bob Watson and CO Mark Zitnik** patrolled opening day of trout season on their snowmobiles. The COs rode over 80 miles on their snowmobiles checking their local trout ponds/creeks with little activity due to the 16 inches of snow still on the ground, making it difficult to fish.
- **Forest Service Officer Dave Tembruell and CO Mark Zitnik** worked a late-night patrol checking smelt fishermen.
- **CO Chris Lynch** received a complaint of a subject that failed to prevent the spread of a fire. CO Lynch responded to the complaint area and contacted the subject. The subject was found to be burning without a permit, failed to prevent the spread of a fire, burned prohibited materials, and was using an improper burn barrel. Enforcement action was taken.

- **CO Chris Lynch** successfully served a 3-count warrant on a subject without incident. The warrant was for a bear hunter who shot an over limit of bear, hunted bear without a license, and used a kill tag of another.
- **CO Tom Oberg** was on patrol when he received a call from central dispatch regarding an injured bald eagle. CO Oberg drove to the location and found the eagle on the side of the road where it was observed to have an injured wing and was unable to fly. CO Oberg was able to get close enough and secure the eagle with a blanket. The eagle was brought to a rehabber in Sault Ste. Marie where it received treatment until healed and able to fly.
- **CO Tom Oberg** and a Mackinac County Sheriff's Deputy checked fishermen on the pier in Hessel. Before making contact, CO Oberg from a distance used his binoculars to see who had a pole in their hand and was fishing. When the officers made contact, CO Oberg asked an individual if he was having any luck? The subject stated that he was not fishing, however, quickly confessed when CO Oberg explained to him that the officers watched from a distance and saw that he had a pole in his hand and was casting and reeling. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Colton Gelin** was on patrol in Mackinac County when he came across an abandoned vehicle. CO Gelin followed the footprints for several miles before contacting two individuals who stated their vehicle had broken down. CO Gelin assisted the individuals in contacting a wrecker and removing their vehicle from state land.
- **COs Tom Oberg, Colton Gelin, Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon, and acting Sgt. Calvin Smith** attended a public meeting at Newberry High School for CWD. The public was informed/educated on CWD, as well as answering questions.

#### DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 5-21-18

- **CO Mark Zitnik** was on patrol checking for steelhead fishermen in the local rivers. CO Zitnik was approaching a closed section of the Rock River when he noticed two anglers fishing in that section of stream. Upon contact the one angler cut his line and then stated he did not know you couldn't fish there. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Mike Evink and Mark Zitnik** were working throughout the night checking anglers dipping for smelt. While approaching a creek, the COs noticed three individuals hide. Two laid in the creek and the third crawled in the culvert. Upon contact the COs noticed they were hiding because they were trying to spear on a designated trout stream. One subject had a warrant out of Indiana and the second had two warrants out of Antrim County and Otsego County. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Bobby Watson and Chris Lynch** were dispatched to a wildfire that had started when a landowner was burning a Christmas tree during a restricted burn time. The fire escaped the landowner and the fire department was called out to control the fire. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Michael Evink and Commercial Fish Specialist Cpl. Mike Hammill** conducted a joint patrol on the opening day of Walleye season in the UP. The officers experienced a high level of compliance and some good fishing reports. The exception to the rule was the 25-year-old who said his mom forgot to get his license for him. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Michael Evink** was patrolling Big Bay de Noc. He asked the first boat he checked if they caught anything. They said they caught a few bass. After checking licenses and Marine safety gear. CO Evink asked if they had any fish in the cooler. They said yes, 3 Bass. CO Evink informed the fisherman that bass season didn't open until the Saturday before Memorial Day. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Michael Evink and Stephen Butzin** assisted Boy Scout Troop 408. The officers spent some time talking about what Conservation Officers do and the current hunting and fishing regulations.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Bobby Watson** checked trout anglers on a gear restricted river after receiving multiple complaints of anglers using non-artificial. A check of one angler turned out that he was in possession of non-artificial bait. A citation was issued for the violation.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Bobby Watson** checked a bass fisherman at an access site. The COs asked to see the anglers license and it was discovered the angler never purchased one. The angler was issued a citation.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Bobby Watson** worked the walleye opener check several successful anglers. Overall compliance was high with enforcement action being taken for the following violations: fishing without a license, possessing undersize walleye, and having no type 4 PFD's on board when required.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Bobby Watson** were on patrol when a call came out of a victim unconscious and not breathing. The COs responded to the scene to assist EMS in CPR and aid to the victim. The victim was transported to the local hospital to be turned over to hospital personnel.
- **CO Chris Lynch** responded to 4 calls of escaped fires within a two-week period. All were subjects burning on days that were not permitted and didn't take precautions in preventing their fires from escaping. Some also were burning prohibited materials and using an improper burn barrel. In all 5 citations were issued for various violations along with numerous warnings being issued.
- **COs Calvin Smith, Thomas Oberg and Colton Gelin** held a Hunter Safety Course at Detour High School. A good number of students attended the course and earned their Hunter Safety Certificate.
- **CO Colton Gelin** responded to a fire in Mackinac County that was caused by the suspect burning garbage in a non-approved container. Both a local Fire Department and DNR Fire Division responded to the scene and put out the flames. In total approximately one acre of land was burned. Law enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Colton Gelin** responded to a fire in Luce County during an extreme fire danger day. The suspect was burning building material during a burn ban. Law enforcement action was taken.

- **CO Colton Gelinas** was patrolling state land in Mackinac County when he observed flagging in the woods. CO Gelinas followed the flagging for nearly a mile, where he found debris from an airplane crash. After further investigation it was discovered that the airplane had crashed in 1989 and was not discovered until 2002.
- **CO Tom Oberg** was on patrol at Dunbar Park to check fishing activity in the area. CO Oberg contacted a group that was fishing and found that one individual had never purchased a fishing license for 2018, and another member was in possession of a northern pike during the closed season. Law enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Tom Oberg** received information from DNR Fire Supervisor Rob Shields of a fire near Sault Ste. Marie that escaped and ended up burning over 40 acres of land. CO Oberg responded and contacted the suspect who admitted to starting a small patch of grass on fire near his driveway and left before making sure it was completely out. Law enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Tom Oberg** was on patrol when he responded to a missing 17-year old girl in Whitefish Township along the shore of Lake Superior. CO Oberg assisted the Michigan State Police, Chippewa County Sheriff's Office, Whitefish Township Fire, and other volunteers in the search. CO Oberg utilized his side-by-side to go along the beach where he found fresh shoe prints, after the terrain became impassable for the ORV CO Oberg continued to follow them on foot for nearly a mile. CO Oberg checked an area just off the beach where he came across a tent with the missing girl in it. She was transported back to her family in good health.
- **COs Calvin Smith and Justin Vinson** patrolled the Tahquamenon River during the opening day of walleye season. The COs came across a group of anglers who were displaying an expired boat registration. The owner of the boat stated he had received a citation for the same thing over three years ago almost in the same location on the river. Law enforcement action was taken.

### **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). Click on "public input" to find the open house schedule and an interactive map.
- Bidding on offered timber sales has been light, but all 12 recently offered sales in the EUP sold. The timber market is soft, with smaller operations having some difficulty selling wood to the mills. The Sault conducted a pre-bid meeting on the Algonquin Ski Trail sale.
- Sale activity has picked up with the warmer weather and the removal of road restrictions. There are currently about 25 active sales in the EUP, generally upland sites. Several sales were completed during the extended winter weather and will be closed.
- The GNA H-13 sale is currently being harvested and is expected to be completed soon, which will make it the first GNA sale to be completed on the Hiawatha National Forest. Two other Hiawatha GNA sales are partially cut, and two are in process of being marked.
- EUP staffing changes include: promotion of Newberry Forester Jason Tokar to EUP Timber Management Specialist, filling of a forester position at Naubinway, and hiring of summer students and a temporary fire officer in the Sault. We have a few additional vacancies that we'll be filling in the coming weeks.
- Wyman State Nursery just completed their 66<sup>th</sup> lifting season, for a total of 264 million conifer seedlings! This year the nursery crew lifted 5.3 million red, white, and jack pine as well as some white spruce. All the trees went to reforest state land. Along with the pine, 900 5-foot tall oak trees were lifted and planted on state land. These oak trees are being planted to provide hard mast for wildlife and to offset the loss of beech trees to disease. Wyman also donated trees for earth day celebrations and for classroom projects.
- Of the trees lifted by Wyman, 1.3 million of them were planted on 1,671 acres in the EUP. Trees planted were: 540,000 Jack pine; 747,000 red pine; and 20,000 white pine and white spruce. Once spring fire season comes to an end, staff will start trenching for next year's planting and scarifying areas that were recently harvested to provide for natural regeneration.

- Sault unit staff helped with tree planting with Engadine School at Strickler GEM and with Drummond Island School on Drummond. Wildlife Division and various outdoor groups were involved, to help aid with the planting and financial support of the event. Everyone had a good time and the weather was great.
- A public meeting to discuss the Road Inventory project related to PA 288 was recently held in Newberry. Attendees were able to review the information and provide comments to the DNR. More information is available at [www.michigan.gov/forestroads](http://www.michigan.gov/forestroads).
- Comments are still being taken by the Department on the road inventory project (PA 288). Ways to comment include:
  - Online: [www.michigan.gov/forestroads](http://www.michigan.gov/forestroads)
  - Emails: [roadinventoryproject@michigan.gov](mailto:roadinventoryproject@michigan.gov)
  - Mail: ATTN: DNR Roads Inventory Project, 1990 US-41 South, Marquette, MI 49855
  - In person at NRC meetings schedule on Oct. 12, Nov. 9 and Dec. 14.
  - **Mail, email and on-line comments will be accepted until November 16.**
- A quick approaching fire season this year, with late season snowfalls quickly yielding to a dry May, required a fair amount of fire staffing. UP firefighters have responded and suppressed 35 fires totaling 155 acres to date. Staff shortages in the Sault management unit has led to personnel from Newberry and Shingleton providing additional coverage. Largest fire to date in the EUP was just under 42 acres in the Sault unit.
- Late snowfalls also set prescribed burning back for the spring. The Sault Ste. Marie Unit was able to complete one wildlife burn (220 acres) on Drummond Island that has been on the books for a several years. Shingleton completed a burn at Fayette State Park to reestablish an opening. Both burns were successfully executed for a total of 235 acres. Twelve fire qualified staff from the EUP went down state to assist with spring prescribed burning.
- There are several road improvement projects planned for this summer. Some will be bid, and some will be done using DNR staff and equipment. These improvements include: culvert replacements, graveling, grading, bridge repair/replacement, and ORV trail repair.
- Facilities upgrade projects in EUP include: roof replacement, lighting/electrical repair, and furnace and insulation repair/replacement.
- Firewood collectors have been coming in for permits, and several have been issued. Some recently completed sales were done in conjunction with a MSU research project. When complimentary to the research project, we have issued permits on these sales.

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

- The Finance and Operations Division held its bi-annual, In-Service Training in Glen Arbor, May 15-17, 2018. Topics included, Critical Dunes, Executive Office updates, CWD, Marketing and Outreach Division programming, Arctic Grayling, Consent Decree information and processes, State Park programming, a feature of the Warden's show and activities included Archery, Orienteering, Hiking and Fishing with an aquatics species overview. This training was very well received and valuable.
- Fire Danger continues to be high in the Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Peninsula. Anyone who plans to burn in the northern Lower Peninsula or Upper Peninsula must go online to [www.michigan.gov/burnpermit](http://www.michigan.gov/burnpermit) or call 866-922-2876 to see where burning is allowed.
- June 8-9<sup>th</sup> is Free Fishing weekend across the state, with various programs being held throughout the State Park system and Visitor Centers.
- If anyone is interested in the May 2018 DNR License Report presented at the May Natural Resource Commission Meeting, please contact Kristi for a hard or email copy.

## JUNE 2018

- 6/1 – Deadline to apply for Bear and Elk hunts
- 6/2 – Muskie season opens (New - now the first Saturday in June)
- 6/9 & 6/10 – Free Fishing Weekend 2018
- 6/16 – Bass season opens on Lake St. Clair, St. Clair R, Detroit R, Boundary Waters.
- 6/25 – Bear & Elk Drawing results posted on Web site

## JULY 2018

- 7/1 – May apply for Fall Turkey hunts
- 7/8 – Dog Training opens; may also use dogs for night hunting (see p. 48)
- 7/15 – May apply for an Antlerless Deer license
  - *Can also apply for Reserved Deer Hunts*
  - *Youth 10-16 may purchase one Junior Antlerless License, over the counter*
- 7/15 – Opener for Turtle seasons (Snappers and Softshells)
- 7/16 – Sturgeon opens on Lake St. Clair and St. Clair River, also Otsego Lake (Otsego Co.)

## AUGUST 2018

- 8/1 – Crow season re-opens (open dates are 8/1 – 9/30 and 2/1 – 3/31)
- 8/1 – Deadline for Fall Turkey applications
- 8/1 – May apply for Reserved Waterfowl hunts
- 8/1 – Hunting & Trapping Digests available at license agents
- 8/1 – Hook & Lure size/weight restrictions begin on all streams (through 5/31, see p. 11)
- 8/10 – May place bear blinds in Zone 1 and may place bear baits in Zone 1
- 8/13 – Fall Turkey Drawing results posted on Web site
- 8/15 – Deadline for Antlerless Deer applications (also Reserved Deer Hunts)
- 8/17 – May place bear blinds in Zone 2 (see Bear Digest for baiting dates)
- 8/20 - Leftover Turkey Licenses on sale (for unsuccessful applicants, others on 8/27)
- 8/28 – Deadline to apply for Reserved Waterfowl
- 8/28 – Elk Hunt #1 opens (see digest for all hunt periods)

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

- Education staff has wrapped up the spring school program season (mid-April through the end of May) hosting almost 30,000 school children for field trips and conservation education programming at 10 DNR Visitor Centers around the state.
- 46 Seasonal Interpreters (State Workers) have been recruited, hired and trained to support Visitor Center operations around the state.
- The Explorer Program is in full swing at 45 State Parks around the state including U.P. sites: Brimley State Park, Indian Lake State Park, Wells State Park, Van Riper State Park, Baraga State Park and McClain State Parks. Seasonal Interpreters were hired and spent a week training at the Ralph McMullan Center in Roscommon learning the fundamentals of leading all kinds of nature-based campground programs for summer visitors. Through the summer, this group of energetic employees will present about 3,300 programs for more than 65,000 visitors statewide.
- The Pocket Park at the State Fair Grounds in Escanaba has been busy with school kids over the last two weeks and will open June 16 for the summer. The park will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 10-5. Like every other year, we are looking for volunteers to help teach archery, shooting sports and fishing during the UP State Fair Week August 13-19.
- “Arrows Away”: The DNR’s archery education program offers introductory programming every week through Labor Day weekend at 10 sites around the state. Details can be found at [www.Michigan.gov/arrowsaway](http://www.Michigan.gov/arrowsaway).
- “Hook, Line and Sinkers” programs are again placing a weekly emphasis on fishing this summer at more than twenty sites around the state. Details can be found at: [www.michigan.gov/hooklineandsinker](http://www.michigan.gov/hooklineandsinker).

## **Eastern UP Fisheries Division**

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

- Field staff has completed Walleye population estimates on Lac Vieux Desert and Round Lake (Delta County). Final numbers from the survey are incomplete, but the staff reported on Round Lake they handled more than 1,000 adult walleye.
- Field staff completed a Status and Trends survey on Brevoort Lake during the week of May 21. Staff reported high numbers of quality Smallmouth Bass. About a half dozen Great Lakes strain Muskellunge were also captured.
- Staff participated in the Muskellunge egg take operations on the Detroit River. The Detroit River is currently the sole egg source for Michigan's Great Lakes Muskellunge stocking program. Each year efforts are made to target more than 600,000 eggs from spawning Muskellunge in the Detroit River to be hatched and grown to fall fingerlings for stocking. Target production for stocking Muskellunge statewide is 40,000 fall fingerling Muskellunge.
- Field staff is preparing Walleye rearing ponds in anticipation of fry arrival sometime around June 1. These fry will be grown until they reach near 2 inches and then stocked into area lakes.
- Conversations and Coffee meeting was held in Sault Ste. Marie on May 2. Topics for discussion were Yellow Perch daily possession limit, Fishing Tournament Information System, scented bait (materials), and local issues. Meeting was held at Lake Superior State University and well attended by the public.
- Smelt runs are over. Most runs were spread out this year likely due to high water and slowly warming temperatures.
- Field staff has deployed temperature loggers into area streams to monitor stream temperatures during the summer months (July and August). Stream temperature data is valuable in helping to understand thermal regimes of different reaches of streams where trout management is desired.

### **State Fish Hatcheries (Jan VanAmberg, Hatchery Manager)**

#### ***Thompson State Fish Hatchery***

- Fish Culture:
  - Walleye egg take at Little Bay de Noc was the latest on record (May 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>). Egg quality is poor. Experimented with TRIS (buffer) to enhance fertility on the second lot with poor results. Will have enough fry to meet all needs but may not have much surplus.
  - Steelhead egg take was also late.
  - Slow start to stocking but moving lots of fish daily now. All Chinook have been stocked. Three-quarters of the steelhead have been stocked. Most raceways of steelhead are big this year.
- Maintenance:
  - After many months of delays related to SIGMA we got a PO for valve repair for the inside tanks (\$8,500). Parts have been received and staff is rebuilding valves in-house.
  - O-ring failed on pitless adapter for domestic well. Tried a new well company for repair with mixed results (a lot cheaper but less competent).
  - Had first coordination call with HRD on the capital outlay project at Thompson since they were awarded the contract. Engineering proceeding with hopes of letting a contract for the shallow wells this summer. Construction on the rest of the project including steelhead upgrades at the existing hatchery and the new coolwater facility will begin in the spring of 2019.

#### ***Marquette State Fish Hatchery***

- Fish Culture:
  - EEDv levels in both groups of production lake trout and both groups of immature lake trout brood are steadily declining. No signs of clinical symptoms ever appeared in the production lots and signs have disappeared in the brood lots. The Lake Superior Lean production lot was stocked in the normal inland locations. The Seneca Lake production lot was stocked in Higgins Lake and Lake Michigan at Good Harbor Bay. The later was a swap arranged with USFWS who will stock our assignment at Drummond Island in exchange.
  - Slow start to stocking at Marquette as well (still ice in Marquette Harbor as of May 15<sup>th</sup>).
  - Technicians vaccinating fingerling splake, lake trout and brook trout inside when not fish planting.

- Maintenance:
  - Hired state worker to assist with maintenance while we are shorthanded due to vacancy.

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

### **Fayette Historic State Park**

- Harbor: New ice suppression did a great job, dock received no damage over the long winter.
- Lodge: Replaced waterline hooked back up and online, landscaping continuing.
- Seasonal preparation of all equipment, buildings, grounds & staff.
- State worker hiring is going okay. Looks like we will have a full complement of staff if we hire everyone we interviewed.
- General Management Plan Public Meeting Held on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Campground and Toilet/Shower building opened for season May 4<sup>th</sup>. Townsite opened for season on May 12<sup>th</sup>.
- On May 8<sup>th</sup>, Forest Resources staff with assistance from Wildlife Division & the Garden Twp. Volunteer Fire Dept performed a prescribed burn on the infield of the ½ mile historic racetrack. This is the first step in returning the infield to the way it looked in the 1880's.



### **Tahquamenon Falls State Park**

- Upper Falls Water/Sewer Study: UP Engineers & Architects (UPEA) is currently doing fieldwork to study the Water and Sewer patterns at the Upper Falls.
- Lower Falls Boat Concession/Island redevelopment project: Field work is ongoing.
- Lower Falls Concession Store Remodel/Replacement project: Waiting on results from the Architecture firm on whether the existing structure is a viable option for remodel or not.
- Lower Falls Road Seep project: UPEA will be conducting soil borings in the near future.
- Kevin Dennis is the new Park Manager. The Unit Supervisor position is now vacant and waiting to be posted for hire.
- We still have 1 vacant state worker position.
- The annual brown trout plant is set for May 24<sup>th</sup>. Each year, the state park partners with Fish Division to plant several thousand Brown trout between the falls. The Whitefish Township school helps with the plant.
- Camping reservations are at 100% for the upcoming Memorial Day weekend.

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

- Lime Island dock project (planning & design) will be meeting with DTMB this summer.
- Detour Village BAS break wall project (planning & design) will be meeting with DTMB this summer.
- Received an updated proposal for Hazardous Material removal for Raber property structures-waiting for Stewardship/SHPO approval and funding.
- Working with Mrs. Pederson and other PRD staff on plans for a Roy Pederson Memorial playground structure at Brimley State Park. Roy was a state park employee who passed away in an accident earlier this year.
- Brimley has a Ranger vacancy.
- Brimley has all state workers hired for the summer.
- Detour Harbor/Lime Island still has state worker positions not filled.
- Brimley Campground opening was delayed because of snow/water. It is currently open for modern camping.

- Detour Harbor is open for the boating season.
- Lime Island is scheduled to open June 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Brimley had 133 camps the week ending 5/20/18 compared to 168 in 2017.
- Detour/Munuscong SFC's are open but have seen low use.
- All Brimley/Detour BAS skid piers are in.
- It has been challenging to get campground up and running due to the weather and being down a Ranger position.
- Brimley/Detour STW orientation is scheduled for May 30, 2018.
- Ranger Bray attended a 4-day Search and Rescue training in the Western UP in early May.
- Detour/Brimley Rangers and Supervisor attended scaffolding training in St. Ignace.
- Ranger Bray and Supervisor Butcher attended Survival Tactics Refresher Training in St. Ignace.
- July date set for Lime Island Management Plan process and at the same time plans set for Historic Building/Structure Review Committee on the Island.

#### Newberry Field Office

- Brought backhoe to Fayette State Park again and was able to move dirt. Cleaned up ramps at Indian Lake and Round Lake Dredges. Finished with Large and Small equipment inspections and are ready for the summer mowing. Repaired Irish Line Road ORV Trail by opening culverts and repairing washouts that were caused by Beaver activity. All skid piers are installed and were ready for opening of walleye season. Due to high water, McPhees Landing on the Tahquamenon River was not installed and cannot until the water subsides.
- We had three state workers start with the last starting on May 29<sup>th</sup>. The campground crew has been working hard to get the campsites spruced up and vault toilets cleaned and ready for the Memorial Day Holiday and start of camping season.
- Water samples were taken for start-up of the season and were all good. We are removing two hazard trees at Milakokia Lake Campground. We have had a few campers at Big Knob, South Manistique Lake, and Big Knob.
- Never thought we would have to worry about the heat at the end of May, but with it comes dehydration. Everyone was trained on how to spot the symptoms of heat stroke for safety reasons.

#### Indian Lake & Palms Book State Park

- Construction on the stairway/deck project at Laughing Whitefish Falls will be starting soon.
- The Alger County Road Commission was hired to add gravel & graded the entrance road to Laughing Whitefish Falls.
- All our seasonal rangers & most of our state workers have returned for the season.
- The Schoolcraft County Fishing Association held their annual Walleye Fishing tournament on 5/19 & 5/20.
- Attendance is down a little compared to last year. This is mainly due to a late April snow storm.

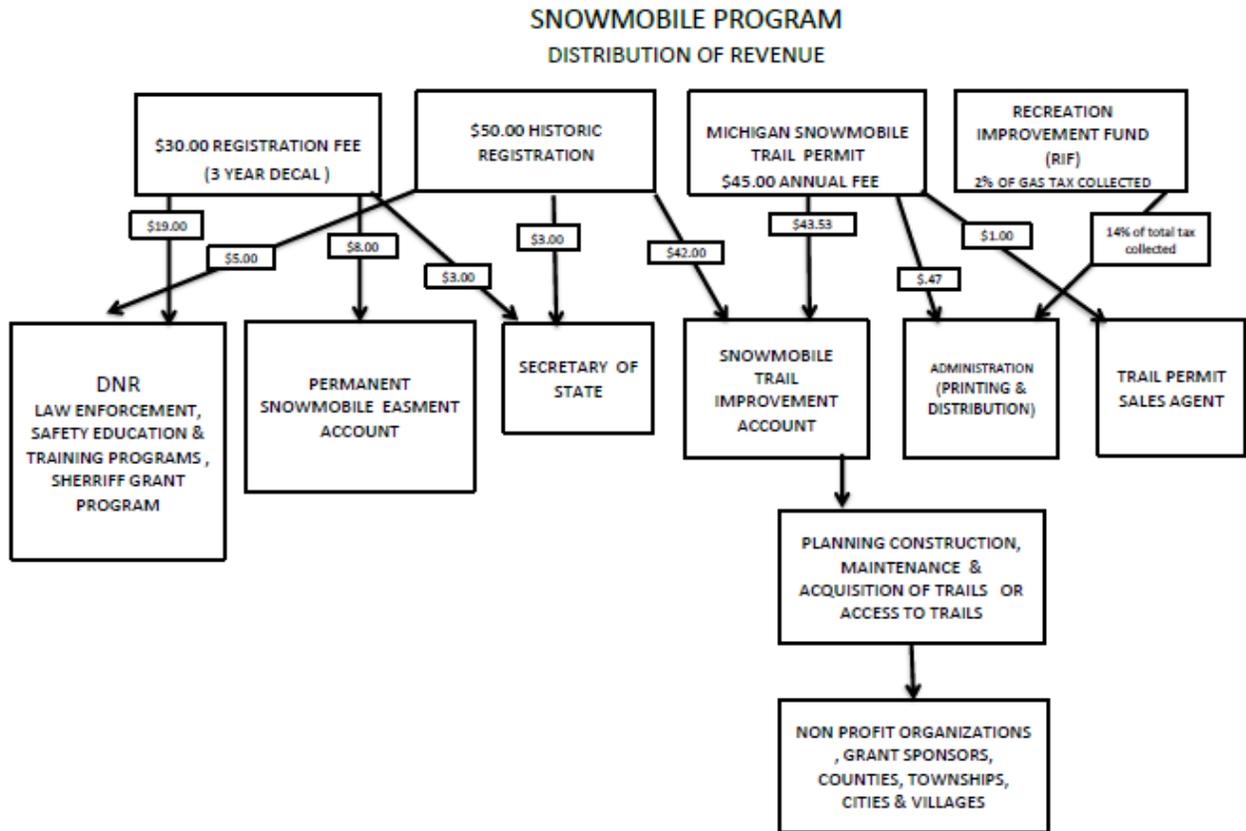
#### Straits State Park

- Bids to hire a consultant for Mackinac Island comfort station went out and will be evaluated to get a consultant hired to start the planning for a new toilet shower facility.
- Contractor of toilet shower buildings at Straits will be coming back to perform some warranty work.
- Straits and Mackinac Island Harbor have some summer positions still open.
- Mackinac Straits Health System held their annual Rock and Run event which comes down a small portion of Straits trail and then the roadway out to the entrance. There were about 150 participants this year.
- Reservations for Memorial Day weekend are much higher than normal. It will be interesting to see if the numbers hold as rain is in the forecast.
- Straits is struggling to fill all our summer worker positions again for the third season in a row. With the permission to hire at the higher \$9.65/hour wage, it has helped a little bit.
- Father Marquette collaboration has continued.
- Father Marquette location was given an explorer guide position; however, it has been very difficult to find someone to fill and the position is still open.

#### Trails Section Unit Report – East UP

- *Rail-Trail Projects*
  - Soo to Raco Route has beaver issues washing out the trail, have been repaired and working on the beaver extermination.

- **Snowmobile Trail Updates**
  - Finding issues after spring runoff and working on some fixes.
  - Snowmobile funding for grant sponsor operations and project grants comes from trail permit sales, historic registration and 14% of 2% of state gas tax revenues.
  - Recreation Trails Project(RTP) Grant and Recreation Improvement Fund (RIF) Programs fund some large projects. RTP funds are from Federal Gas Tax. RIF funds are from State Gas Tax.



- **ORV Trail Updates**
  - Grant sponsor applications for 2019 are coming in and being processed
  - ORV Permit sales- October through April is up 8% over last year, Trail permit sales are up 9%. 68% of the users purchasing ORV permits are purchasing trail permits also, this is over 10% more than last month.
  - Have been to the field to verify projects to work on getting bid out to contractors.
  - Grant Sponsors are performing maintenance runs and reporting trail issues, beaver flooding, some tree damage from storms and washouts.
  - New ORV routes in Mackinac County are being signed by grant sponsors now.
- **Equestrian Trail Projects**
  - Headquarters Lake Trail Proposal is in process of review by land managers.
  - Local Equestrian group held a meeting for update of equestrian projects. There great attendance, very good communications both ways. Working on volunteers to help with smaller project needs.
  - Pony Express ride across the UP in memory of the Pony Express Riders. The ride was started in May, suggested routes were provided to the group.
  - The Equestrian Program is basically unfunded except for small funds from Forest Recreation Fund.
  - Recreation Trails Project(RTP) Grant and Recreation Improvement Fund(RIF) Programs fund some projects. RTP funds are from Federal Gas Tax. RIF funds are from State Gas Tax.

- *Pathway Projects*
  - Shore to Shore Chapter of North Country Trail Association has completed a Park to Park hiking Brochure. Tahquamenon Falls SP to Muskellunge Lake SP
  - Approved reroute by Reed and Green Campground has been partially ribboned and totally walked, will be nice along lake shore.
- *Event/Use Permits*
  - Jeep the Mack was in April 20 to 22, included going to Drummond Island on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - Drummond Island Jeep Jamboree will be June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.
- *General*
  - Trail Proposals involving the Hiawatha National Forest(NF) are being considered through the Comprehensive Trails Planning effort started earlier in the past year. April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting update; many of the proposals were accepted to move forward in the process because they will not require a full NEPA review. Some were dropped, mostly ORV proposals, because they will need complete NEPA review, which would slow this process down.

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

- The spring broadcasts of “Ask the DNR” wound up in May with a show featuring special guest Bill O’Neill, DNR deputy director, who made the trip up from Lansing to appear on the show answering viewer questions. The past two seasons of the program have also featured appearances by Upper Peninsula representatives on the Michigan Natural Resources Commission John Matonich and J.R. Richardson. These special guest appearances are designed to provide increased access of these officials to the public and continued transparency of the department. The program will return to the air this fall on WNMU-TV13. Past programs, including those mentioned above, may be viewed online at <https://wnmuvideo.nmu.edu/show/ask-dnr/>.
- A weekly travel series has begun on Wednesdays in The Mining Journal, which will feature Michigan state parks, state rustic campgrounds and other features. The articles will appear under the heading “Gas Tank Getaways,” and is being produced by the DNR. These articles will continue for 13 weeks throughout the summer.
- The DNR “Outdoors North” column and feature stories from the Showcasing the DNR series, which is issued on Thursdays, continue to be well-received. “Outdoors North” appears in The Mining Journal, Daily Mining Gazette and Escanaba Daily Press. To receive Showcasing the DNR stories in your email box, sign-up at the bottom of the DNR’s main webpage under “Newsletter updates” at <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr>. To read past Showcasing stories in the archive, visit <https://www.michigan.gov/dnrstories>.