Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator: Stacy Haughey

**DNR Public Meetings**

October 11  Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing
October 16  Forestry Open House–Newberry Unit, DNR Newberry Field Office, 3:00pm
October 17  Forestry Compartment Review–Gwinn Unit, Ishpeming Township Hall, 9:30am
October 18  Eastern UP Citizen’s Advisory Council Meeting, Munising Township Hall–Wetmore, 6:00pm
October 23  Forestry Compartment Review–Shingleton Unit, DNR Shingleton Office, 9:00am
October 25  Forestry Compartment Review–Crystal Falls, DNR Crystal Falls Office, 8:00am Central
October 25  UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, DNR Shingleton Field Office, 6:00pm
October 30  Forestry Compartment Review–Newberry Unit, Newberry Correctional Facility Training Room, 9am
November 1  Ask the DNR Program on WNMI-TV13, 8:00pm
November 1  Western UP Citizen’s Advisory Council Meeting, Bay College–Escanaba, 5:30pm
November 8  Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Detroit
December 5  Eastern UP Citizen’s Advisory Council Meeting, LMAS Health Dept–Newberry, 6:00pm

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

October 13  Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Harvest Festival
October 26  Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park–Creating a Cutting Board (3–day class)

**Recent DNR Press Releases**

For full details, go to: [http://www.michigan.gov/dnrpressroom](http://www.michigan.gov/dnrpressroom)

- Future of Lime Island, New Zealand mudsnails, NRC meeting & more (10/8/18)
- Federal grant aids effort to create richer Visitor experiences at Straits State Park (10/5/18)
- DNR Get Involved: Input on state forest road ORV use, forest planning & more (10/5/18)
- Showcasing the DNR: Taking a shot at shooting sports (10/4/18)
- Discover the beauty of Michigan’s fall trails (10/3/18)
- Bats, Wetland Wonders, archeology, hiking, hunts and more (10/2/18)
- State-record sunfish, wildlife habitat grants, ORVs on forest roads (10/1/18)
- Be prepared for archery season (9/29/18)
- Showcasing the DNR: Working to bring back the Arctic grayling (9/28/18)
- NRC to consider higher brook trout limits on some U.P. streams (9/27/18)
- Poll: Overwhelming public support to block Asian carp from Great Lakes (9/25/18)
- Boating access site paving delayed in Ontonagon County (9/24/18)
- Deer hunting forecast, hunter safety classes, 'smart ships' (9/24/18)
- Timber harvest to impact Algonquin Pathway in eastern U.P. (9/22/18)
- Showcasing the DNR: Volunteers prove Michigan Cares for Tourism (9/20/18)
Grant Contacts
For 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, carlockm@michigan.gov

Recreation Passport Grant
Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov

Aquatic Habitat Grant
Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, parkerK4@michigan.gov

Michigan Invasive Species Grant
Kammy Frayre, 517-284-5970, frayrek1@michigan.gov

Wildlife Habitat Grant
Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, parkerK4@michigan.gov

U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant
Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, scullonh@michigan.gov

October 2018 NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met in Lansing on October 11. Items approved by the Commission:

- Special fishing regulations for warmwater species on select waters. The revised regulations include changes to bait restrictions, pike possession limits and bass size limits on certain waters. The commission amended this regulation before its passage to remove the daily possession limit for yellow perch on Lake Gogebic. This regulation will instead be added to a future order.

- Changes to designated trout streams, removing from this designation a portion of the Black River in Cheboygan County, and Dickerson Creek in Ionia and Montcalm counties.

- Changes to fishing tournament regulations, which currently require registration of bass tournaments. This order adds mandatory registration of walleye and muskellunge tournaments as well beginning in 2019.

Director Keith Creagh approved Commercial fishing regulations, clarifying commercial fishing law for better protection, preservation, maintenance and harvesting of fish. He also approved 15 land transactions. Details of those transactions can be found in the NRC agenda.

The first meeting of the day was of the Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries. Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter told the committee that the fall salmon runs have been strong this year. The initiative to re-establish Arctic grayling in Michigan waters is moving forward, with an annual partners meeting scheduled for Oct. 29.

Jim then reviewed a proposal to add additional Upper Peninsula waters to the list of streams with a 10-brook-trout-a-day bag limit, an exception to the statewide bag limit of five brook trout a day. There are currently 33 stream segments in the U.P. where this more liberal limit applies. Fisheries identified an additional seven stream segments for potential inclusion. Because of limited data on how the regulations are affecting fish populations, Fisheries suggested an additional three years of study on the current streams with this additional bag limit before making a judgment on the additional seven streams. The Commission asked for an amendment to the order to remove the additional seven streams, and further asked the Fisheries Division to come back to the committee with a framework for a study that will properly evaluate the effect of the bag limit regulation on streams where the 10-fish limit currently applies.

Seth Herbst of Fisheries reviewed fisheries orders before the commission for information and slated for action at the November meeting. These include:

- Statewide trout, salmon, whitefish, lake herring and smelt regulation, which would remove restrictions on scented materials on some inland waters and make other modifications to the current order.

- Special hook size regulations, which includes several minor changes to current regulations.

- Statewide warmwater regulations for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, muskellunge, channel catfish, flathead catfish, yellow perch, sunfishes and white bass. This order would make a number of changes to current regulations, including reducing the statewide yellow perch daily possession limit from 50 to 25. This proposed change followed an analysis that included a statewide survey of anglers that found a solid majority supporting the reduced limit.
Changes to gear restrictions for fishing to allow drop-shotting at drowned river mouths. Drop-shotting is a method of fishing whereby an artificial bait or lure is tied to the main line above a weight, which allows anglers to bounce the weight on the bottom while keeping the bait or lure a distance from the bottom. Prohibitions against this practice were put in place because of concerns about snagging. The new regulations will limit hook sizes to maintain opportunities for anglers while protecting resources.

Wildlife Chief Russ Mason stated that the Wildlife Habitat Grant program has provided $4.7 million for habitat improvement across the state. A memorandum from U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke reaffirms the authority of states to exercise their broad trustee and police powers on public lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the Interior Department. The U.P. Deer Movement Study confirms concerns that there is at least some risk of CWD entering the Upper Peninsula from Wisconsin because of deer movement.

Chad Steward of Wildlife reported on the results of this year’s Preliminary Elk Season. The season ran during three time periods: Aug. 28-Aug. 31; Sept. 14-Sept. 17; and Sept. 28-Oct. 1. Sixty-nine elk were harvested during this time: 28 bulls and 41 antlerless elk. Tribal hunters harvested three elk – two bulls and one cow.

John Niewoonder of Wildlife talked about the department’s efforts to expand opportunities for hunters to check and test deer in the 16-county CWD Management Zone. Historically there have been six check stations in these counties. This season there will be 17, along with 21 stand-alone deer head drop boxes. In addition, the department is working with 18 deer processors and 25 taxidermists to obtain samples. The goal is to test over 15,500 deer throughout the hunting seasons this year.

In the Committee of the Whole, Commission Chair Vicki Pontz introduced new NRC commissioner David Nyberg of Skandia in the Upper Peninsula. Dave is director of corporate engagement at Northern Michigan University and has a long-time interest and involvement in natural resources.

Law Enforcement Chief Gary Hagler introduced Steve Burton as the new assistant chief of the Law Enforcement Division. Assistant Chief Burton’s background includes time in the Michigan State Police and Michigan Army National Guard. He has been with the DNR Law Enforcement Division for 20 years.

Chief Hagler then presented four lifesaving awards to members of his division:

- **Conservation Officer Michael Evink of Manistique** responded to a call that two men had overturned a kayak in Lake Michigan, south of Manistique. The caller said that the two men were bobbing in the water next to the kayak. The officer responded to the scene and launched his DNR personal watercraft from the beach at the caller’s location. CO Evink was able to locate and secure one of the kayakers, a man from Oxford, Michigan. He returned the kayaker, who was displaying signs of hypothermia and exhaustion, to shore where Manistique Public Safety Emergency Medical Services provided medical assistance. The man made a full recovery, thanks to CO Evink’s efforts. The second man did not survive, despite several attempts by CO Evink to reach the man at the bottom of the lake.

- **Conservation Officer Jeff Panich of Lincoln** was on marine patrol heading into Tawas Bay from Lake Huron when he observed an unoccupied personal watercraft spinning in circles, 1 mile from shore. Scanning the water, CO Panich observed two passengers, both wearing life jackets, about a half-mile from the watercraft. CO Panich approached the passengers, a female in her 30s and a male in his 60s, both from Florida. Stopping the boat, CO Panich asked the passengers to swim to the ladder and climb onto the DNR boat. The female passenger was able to climb aboard, but the man indicated he had no strength. CO Panich was able to assist the fatigued and shaking man onto the boat. The passengers said that they had been riding the rented watercraft and were not wearing the safety lanyard when they fell into the water. When the watercraft circled around them, they would try swimming for it, heading further into the lake instead of toward shore. The two estimated they were in the water for 30 minutes before CO Panich arrived.

- **Conservation Officers Samuel Koscinski and Scott MacNeill of Manistee** were conducting marine patrol on the river in Manistee County when they noticed a distressed female in fast-flowing water, located downstream of Tippy Dam. Elisabeth Aldridge, 22, of Montague, Michigan, was wrapped around a log – being pulled by the current. Her head was barely above water and her arm was punctured by fish hooks that were attached to fishing lines tangled on the log. Battling the fast river current, CO Koscinski controlled the DNR boat, positioning it to provide Aldridge with support. CO MacNeill reached over the boat bow to temporarily secure Aldridge in a life jacket and cut the fishing lines attached to the hooks in Aldridge’s arm. Holding onto the boat, Aldridge broke free from the original lines, but her legs became tangled in additional hooks and lines. The force of Aldridge’s body tangled in the fish lines pulled the bow of the boat further into the water. CO Koscinski maintained the boat while...
CO MacNeill held Aldridge and provided her with a knife to free her legs from the lines. In a state of shock, Aldridge was pulled into the boat where she was able to recover.

Parks Chief Ron Olson reported that Recreation Passport revenue is up 12.8 percent this year over last; lodging reservations are up 1 percent and harbor nights are up 11.5 percent; ORV license sales are up 2.6 percent and trail use is up 1.4 percent. There were a number of events around the state to celebrate National Trails Week, Sept. 22-29, Ron said. Staff are continuing to make progress on repairing infrastructure, especially trails, damaged by storms in the Western Upper Peninsula in June.

Ron presented a Partners in Conservation Award to the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative and its board chairman, Jeff Hardcastle, for the group’s positive impact on nonmotorized trail development projects in southeast Michigan. The Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the facilitation and development of nonmotorized recreational trails through awareness, fundraising and the coordination of individuals, civic groups, businesses and government entities.

Marketing and Outreach Chief Kristin Phillips presented a Partners in Conservation Award to Jon Gray who teaches middle school in Lake Orion. Since 2010, Jon has raised $90,000 in funds through the Novi Chapter of Safari Club International to offer scholarships to educators to attend the DNR’s Academy of Natural Resources. The two-week academy 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. For nine years, Gray has also contributed hundreds of hours to help plan and facilitate the academy, which has grown from 16 teachers in 2008 to 70 this past year. The program has since expanded, thanks to Gray’s involvement, to include the Academy of Natural Resources North in the western Upper Peninsula.

Office of the Great Lakes Director Jon Allan talked about efforts to monitor the Clinton River-Lake St. Clair Watershed through a first-of-its-kind integrated, interactive model of the watershed by deploying a network of 50 water quality censors. Jon also reported on an economic impact study of money spent on Areas of Concern in Michigan. Every federal dollar spent between 2010 and 2016 will produce an additional $3.35 in additional economic activity for the Great Lakes region through 2036; will generate an additional $1.62 in additional economic activity in tourism related industries through 2036; and will produce quality of life improvements worth $1.08 to residents in coastal communities.

The Michigan Involvement Committee of Safari Club International presented the 2018 Biologist of the Year Award to John Niewoonder of the Wildlife Division. John, of Greenville, is a highly respected biologist and manager. He was recognized for his outstanding contribution to wildlife management in Michigan.

The SCI presented awards to two deer hunters who participated in the annual deer hunter survey conducted by the DNR. The two were randomly drawn from among survey respondents. Alan Lee of Chesterfield won a new gun. Brian Ballinger of DeWitt won a new crossbow.

Jim Dexter of Fisheries announced that the division is integrating three current grant programs – the Aquatic Habitat Grant Program, the Dam Management Grant Program and the Habitat Improvement account grant program – into one. This will increase efficiency and create a consistent application timeline. The new format should be fully in place in 2019.

Tammy Newcomb of the Executive Division reported on efforts to stop invasive Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam. Mike Nowlin of Gud Marketing, the company retained by the DNR to spearhead the campaign to promote action at Brandon Road, talked about how the campaign has been able to bring attention to this important natural resource issue. The most recent phase of the campaign included an impactful video that has been shared multiple times on social media.

Resource Deputy Bill O’Neill, Chad Stewart of Wildlife and Marketing and Outreach Chief Kristin Phillips gave the latest on chronic wasting disease. Common questions the department is encountering regarding this year’s hunting regulations are related to scent and bait; carcass transportation; special scenarios regarding having deer tested (related to taxidermy, for instance); and an expiring license that was put in place for the first time this year, Chad said. Public meetings were held in September on a proposed Antler Point Restriction in the thumb area. A survey of hunters in the area will be sent by January 2019, with results expected in April 2019. Evaluation of a proposed antler point restrictions in a five-county area affected by CWD is also moving forward.

Kristin talked about communications efforts around CWD, which have focused on encouraging hunters to recognize that their actions matter in helping to manage CWD in the state. The department has created brochures, cards and posters for distribution around the state. We have also purchased radio time for public service announcements about CWD. The department did a Facebook Live event featuring Chad Stewart, allowing people to ask questions about CWD. In addition,
Kristin said, the department is working to communicate with non-hunters, especially those who recreationally feed deer, to let them know how CWD regulations will affect them.

**Legislative Updates – Anna Mooney, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office**

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and the Code of Criminal Procedure to provide additional protections for the Great Lakes in the Straits of Mackinac where pipelines exist. HB 6187 would require the Department of Natural Resources to install markers, buoys or other signage to indicate to an operator of a vessel that they are in an area where an anchor or other vessel equipment is currently prohibited.

HB 6200 would prohibit the dragging, setting or use of an anchor by a vessel in the Straits of Mackinac, unless granted permission by the Director. HB 6199 would provide clear penalties for an operator of a vessel that is knowingly dragging or using an anchor in an area where it is prohibited, unless by emergency order. Lastly, HB 6201 would require that an owner, operator or manager of a Straits gas or oil pipeline from which a release occurs notify the Department of Environmental Quality immediately. The owner or operator of the pipeline would then be required to submit subsequent reports on the cause of the release, discovery of the release and the response measures taken to prevent reoccurrence or a schedule for completion of measures to take place.

- These bills passed the House and were referred to the Senate for consideration.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

These bills seek 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 Department to allow law enforcement agencies to verify that an individual has obtained a boater’s safety certificate.

- These bills passed the House and were referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

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

**HB 6293 – Firearm Possession – Rep. LaFave**
This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to carry, transport or possess a firearm in an area frequented by wild animals without a hunting license so long as they are not hunting.

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

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to double the fines for a recreational trespass violation.

- HB 6354 was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and SB 1119 to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to possess or transport minnows for commercial purposes without a permit or license if the person purchased the minnows from a person that holds a permit or license to take, possess, or transport those minnows.

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

**HB 6362 – Violation Penalties – Rep. LaFave**
This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to change the penalties for various violations from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction.
This bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary.

The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.


These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to transport or possess an unloaded and uncased firearm upon a vehicle if the individual is on private property or is traveling along a public highway, road or street that bisects the individual’s property. The legislation also proposes to allow an individual to take waterfowl from a boat if the boat’s motor has been shut off and the boat’s forward progress has ceased, as consistent with language in the Department’s Wildlife Conservation Order.

- HB 6365 was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and SB 1120 to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.


This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to engage in deer and elk feeding so long as the feed is located not more than 600 feet from a residence or structure on private property. The individual would be prohibited from placing or scattering more than 2 gallons of feed within 600 feet of the residence or structure at one time.

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


This bill seeks to amend the Clean and Renewable Energy and Energy Waste Reduction Act to prohibit an individual from constructing a wind turbine within two miles of a State Game Area.

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

**SB 1061 – Memorial Program – Sen. Schuitmaker**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department of Natural Resources to administer a memorial program to allow families choosing cremation a method to honor the deceased’s desires to have their final resting place be at a state park.

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

**SB 1105 – Aquatic Invasive Species Signage – Sen. MacGregor**

This bill seeks to amend the Public Improvement Act for Townships to allow for local tax assessments to be used to pay for prevention of aquatic weeds, plants or invasive species. The bill would also allow for funds to be used to pay for signage regarding aquatic weeds, plants or invasive species.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Local Government.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

**SB 1106 – Purple Paint – Sen. MacGregor**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow purple paint marks to designate a no trespassing area.

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


These resolutions encourage the Department to eliminate the wild turkey hunting license application and drawing system and allow for wild turkey licenses to be sold over-the-counter.

- SR 180 was referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism and HR 389 to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

If you would like to learn more about these and other bills, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at www.legislature.mi.gov.
Western UPCAC Update

Western UP Citizen’s Advisory Council Meeting – September 12 in Ontonagon (Porkies Ski Chalet)
- Annual Elections of Officers
- Proposed Marquette County Shooting Range Update
- Oman Creek Ongoing Update
- Law Enforcement Strategic Plan Update
- Houghton County Trail Conditions Update
- August NRC CWD Regulations
- Committee Reports & Resolutions (Perch & Pike Limits and Moose Management Plan)

The next WUPCAC meeting will be held Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at Bay College in Escanaba.

Division Updates

Finance & Operations: Michelle Zellar, Eastern UP
The annual fall Customer Service Meeting was held at the end of August in Naubinway where customer service staff received retail sales updates, review of the new 2018 Hunting Digest and Wildlife Division updates. The 2018 Fur Harvester Guide is separate from the Hunting Digest this year, having a guide all its own. The Newberry Customer Service Center has been busy with fall grouse, bear, deer and waterfowl hunters, as well as ATV riders doing color tours. Accounting and office staff are busy with year-end responsibilities for the 2018 Fiscal Year, which is the first year-end budget reconciliation in the state’s new accounting system SIGMA.

Sault Ste. Marie office Update: Steel should be arriving in October for the construction to begin this fall, with a completion estimate of this spring.

October 2018
10/13 Duck Hunting opens in the South Zone
10/18 Independence Hunt for deer opens (through 10/21, see p. 30)
10/15 Raccoon/Fox/Coyote trapping open statewide; Badger trapping open in Zone 1 & 2
10/15 Gray & Red Fox hunting opens
10/20 Pheasant season open in Zone 2 & 3 (through 11/14)
10/20 Quail season opens, close date 11/14 (see list of open counties)
10/25 Beaver, Otter, Muskrat & Mink trapping open in U.P. (for residents, others see p. 46)
10/26 Late bear seasons close in the U.P.

November 2018
11/1 Beaver & Otter trapping open in Unit B (for residents)
11/1 Muskrat & Mink trapping open Zone 2; Badger trapping opens in Zone 3
11/6 Woodcock season closes
11/10 Beaver & Otter trapping open in Unit C (for residents)
11/10 Muskrat & Mink trapping open in Zone 3
11/10 Five Day Firearm Restriction Period begins, see hunting digest p. 19
11/14 Badger trapping closes in Zones 1 & 2
11/14 Fall Turkey & Early Archery Deer seasons close
11/14 Grouse closes until 12/1; pheasant season closes in Zones 2 & 3
11/15 Firearm Deer season opens
11/15 Frog, Toad, and Salamander seasons close
11/30 Firearm Deer season closes; Muskie closes on the Boundary Waters
11/30 Last Day to obtain Bobcat Kill Tags
**EUP Wildlife Division: Terry Minzey, Wildlife Supervisor** (prepared by Cody Norton, Biologist)

- **Bear Season**
  - Bear hunting started on September 10th and will continue until October 26th.
  - Preliminary registration information through October 1st shows a bit of a decrease in the number of registrations from this time last year. It’s likely that good natural food production and high temperatures at the beginning of season are contributing factors.

- **Small Game Season:** WLD staff at the Wildlife Disease Lab in Lansing has contacted many avid ruffed grouse hunters in order to collect samples during the hunting season for West Nile Virus testing.

- **Waterfowl Season:** Duck season started with the North Zone opener on September 29th. Many hunters came up to hunt the North Zone from other parts of the state. A survey done by Sault WLD staff showed hunter activity was up and harvest per hunter was similar to last year at one of their locations, with mallards, wood ducks, ring-necked ducks, and scaups being commonly bagged.

- **Habitat/Infrastructure Work**
  - EUP WLD staff are currently working with FRD staff to finalize yearly state forest timber management prescriptions.
  - Newberry WLD staff partnered with the Three Shores CISMA to treat phragmites at the Dollarville Flooding and other areas on state land.
  - Newberry and Sault WLD staff are clearing the Black Creek Flooding dam of brush and trees.
  - Newberry WLD staff replaced the water control boards at the Blind Sucker Flooding and is making improvements to their blind/wildlife viewing platform.
  - Shingleton WLD staff partnered with the Ruffed Grouse Society to secure funding through a Wildlife Habitat Grant, which resulted in planting, fencing, and mulching about 160 mast-producing trees and shrubs in the Garden Grade GEMS this fall.
  - Shingleton DNR Staff employed contractors to clear a 30-acre opening in the Garden Grade GEMS of brush and trees that will be planted to clover next year.
  - Shingleton WLD staff partnered with local FRD staff to improve the Garden Grade with culverts and gravel and provide better access for hunters and other GEMS users.

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

- The 2020 Year of Entry (YOE) inventory is almost complete. Unit open house and compartment review schedules are posted online, along with other state forest inventory information at: www.michigan.gov/forestry. Click on “public input” to find the open house schedule and an interactive map. Naubinway, Sault and Shingleton Open Houses were September 18th, 19th and Oct 4th respectively. Newberry Open House is October 16th.

- Foresters have completed their 2018 timber sale field work, meeting our statewide goal for timber sale preparation for the year. Harvest contracts are being prepared with bid dates of this fall.

- As of September 23rd, 238 timber sale contracts are open in the EUP. This represents 549,566 cords of timber on 36,711 acres and is valued at approximately $26.4 million.

- There are currently about 15 active sales in the EUP; slightly lower than normal in the Sault and Shingleton. Several sales have been completed this summer, with more expected to be completed this fall.

- Two Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) sale were completed in the EUP this year; bidding for them will be this month. For 2019, the EUP will prepare about 1,500 acres for harvest on the Hiawatha National Forest.

- EUP staffing changes include: transfer of the Naubinway forest technician to the Resource Assessment Section, and hiring of a fire officer in the Sault, a forester in Newberry and a forest technician in Naubinway. Current EUP vacancies are a forest technician at Newberry and a Fire Officer 10 at Naubinway.
Comments are still being taken by the Department on the road inventory project (PA 288). Ways to comment include:
- Online: www.michigan.gov/forestroads
- Emails: 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.**

Several road improvement projects were completed this summer, including an arch culvert on Star Creek in the Shingleton FMU that was funded through a Fish Passage Grant. Trout Creek Bridge in the Newberry FMU is scheduled to be re-decked this fall. Several roads received upgrades (leveling, shaping, graveling) using PRD and FRD funds. The upgrades mitigated areas that have been damaged by ORV’s and/or general traffic, improving public access.

EUP forest cultivation activities include:
- Scarification contract (still ongoing): Completed 8 sites to date totaling 615 acres in the Shingleton and Newberry Management Units.
- Trenching (DNR staff): Approximately 700 acres completed so far in the EUP, with work continuing in the Newberry Unit.
- Contract aerial Spraying/Herbicide work: Completed 362 acres of red pine release across the EUP.
- DNR ground herbicide work: Completed 120 acres of red pine release on the Carp River Truck Trail, and 7 acres of site preparation in the Shingleton Unit.

Staff received training on the new regeneration monitoring protocols, which helps ensure that sites are regenerating properly either through natural regeneration or planting.

DNR and Michigan Association of Timbermen will be hosting a training on “Best Practices for Harvesting near Recreational Trails” in Newberry on October 31. The training is for foresters and loggers.

The fire season in the UP was about average in the number of fires and acres burned. There was a 35-acre lightning strike fire in Chippewa County in mid-September. Fire qualified staff have been assisting on western fire assignments; all EUP staff have now returned.

Several FRD staff from the EUP have been assisting PRD and DEQ with the cleanup from the spring flooding in Houghton County.

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

Following are highlights of our work over the last couple months:

- The Salmon in the Classroom program has completed training workshops for a new batch of classroom teachers committed to raising salmon through the 2018-2019 school year. More than 270 classrooms around the state will be raising salmon this year. Teachers must apply to participate in the program and attend one of several workshops held around the state before they are provided eggs, fish food and program support. The application window opens again in January with an April 15 deadline for teachers considering this program.

- MOD is planning a “Nature Center Summit” on February 15. The goal of the program is to strengthen relationships between DNR and Michigan’s great network of Nature Centers. We will be providing sessions on CWD and other wildlife disease issue, forest health, invasive carp and other aquatic invasive species issues and more. Look for more details in days to come.

- Marketing and Outreach Division worked with Wildlife Division and Law Division to conduct four Bear Hunting Clinics at the Hunt and Fish Center in Cadillac again this year. Another 200 participants learned bear biology, law
enforcement, hunting techniques for bear, tree stand safety and other aspects of bear hunting. The stories and pictures are again piling up showing how successful these participants have been this season.

- The Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) held its annual conference at Port Huron on October 5-8. The DNR again played a large role this year serving up breakout sessions and conference organization expertise. The DNR’s Chief Educator, Kevin Frailey was honored with the William B Stapp Award – the organization’s highest award for excellence in environmental education. Congratulations Kevin!

- DNR education staff has again been busy with programming at the Boardman Weir, Platte River Weir and Little Manistee Weir. Program numbers at the Boardman Weir alone have cruised past the 10,000 participant threshold. School groups and public tours help citizens understand the natural history of Great Lakes salmon, the impact invasive species are having on salmon populations around the basin and the role of the DNR in managing Michigan fisheries.

- Many of our visitor center operations have completed harvest festival events including some extremely popular Halloween trail events at Hartwick Pines and Bay City where we have costumed volunteers teach thousands of trail hikers about the critters that are customarily scary during this holiday (and beyond).

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

**Tahquamenon Falls State Park**

- Upper Falls Water/Sewer Study: Ongoing, have identified the need for a new well but are continuing to study the sewer capacity.
- Lower Falls Boat Concession/Island Redevelopment Project: Field work is progressing towards 90% design.
- Lower Falls Concession Store Remodel/Replacement Project: This project should be going out for design bids in the near future.
- Lower Falls Road Seep project: UPEA will be installing monitoring wells in the area at the end of October.
- Ken Golat accepted the Unit Supervisor position and has been in that role for 1 week now. This has created a Lead Ranger vacancy, which should be posted for hire soon.
- Seasonal STW staff will work until October 20th and career seasonal rangers will work until November.
- Our Annual Harvest Festival weekend will be held on October 12 & 13.
- Amazingly, we tied 2017’s record camp night total in 2018 with 30,919 camp nights.
- Day use was down 1% from 2017 but still about 20% higher than the long-term average.

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

- Lime Island Harbor and Detour Village BAS Break wall Consultant has been chosen
- Raber Cabin Hazardous Material removal started on September 24th, with completion estimated on October 11th.
- The Brimley playscape equipment will be delivered the week of October 15th and installation scheduled to start the week of October 22nd.
- Brimley will be conducting Lead Ranger interviews on October 8th
- Brimley State Park was up 318 camps for the year compared to 2017.
- Detour State Harbor was up almost 200 slip nights for the year compared to 2017.
- Lime Island RA cabin nights down 36 for the year compared to 2017.
- Lime Island Management Plan team met August 30th for meeting #2. The Stakeholder’s meeting and meeting #3 is scheduled in the end of October.
- Brimley S.P and Newberry construction crew repaired 4 waterline breaks in the park after Labor Day.
- Brimley S.P had two busy Harvest Fest weekends in September.
- Detour Harbor staff replaced the Host cabin roof on Lime Island after Labor Day
- Detour Harbormaster attended the Harbor meeting in Grand Haven on Oct 1-2.
- Diane Pederson had a memorial celebration for Roy on August 11th at the Brimley Shelter.
Fayette Historic State Park

- Townsite: Northern Restoration completed restoration of collapsed retaining wall segment behind Charcoal Kiln site.
- Ranger Mike Grzenia transferred to Porkies.
- Ranger Jared Swanson transferred from Wells to Fayette.
- Christmas in June held June 16th: Numbers vs 2017: 92 camps Fri/Sat (2018) – 89 camps (2017). Day Use: 287 (2018) – 350 (2017) down 18%. The weather this year was damp, with surrounding thunderstorms although we were spared any storms during the event. 2017 was warm and partly sunny.
- Heritage Day on August 11th: Day Use numbers were 1,432 (2018) vs 1,470 (2017) a 3% decrease. Camp numbers were virtually identical; Friday 60 sites Saturday 59 sites – one short of full (2018) – Friday 57 sites Saturday 58 sites (2017) – full plus one aux, we had three sites closed in 2017 for rehabilitation.
- Paranormal Event on September 14th & 15th 2018: 95 camps (Fri & Sat) 2017: 67 camps (Fri & Sat) a 42% increase. This event was previously held in July and we moved to September and had a new Ghost Hunting Group as hosts. 65 guests participated in the hunts that took place over Friday & Saturday nights.
- Thru 9/30/18: Day Use: 67,224 - Campers: 24,730 - Total Attendance: 91,954
- Previous 3-year average '15-'17): Day Use: 47,949 - Campers: 20,228 - Total Attendance: 68,177. A 35% INCREASE.
- 2018 Camp Nights: 5,012, 2015-17 Camp Nights: 4,050. A 24% INCREASE.
- Continued to have issues with sewage grinder pumps being unable to grind up “flushable” wipes. Posted signage in campground toilet building, made it thru remainder of season without having to pull pumps.

Muskallonge Lake State Park

- Phase 2 design and engineering of the campground electrical upgrade continues. 90% documents are complete with a schedule of bidding this winter with possible construction in the spring.
- All short-term worker staff have been terminated for the season. Seasonal rangers will remain working until mid-November.
- The park hosted the 10th Annual Rock On with Lake Superior Agates show on September 8-9. The campground filled for the event with an estimated 2,200 people in attendance.
- Campground use for 2018 at Muskallonge Lake was up +5% to from 2017 and up 14% from average. State forest campground use was down -13% from the 2017 season. Muskallonge Lake had a slow start this spring with a late snow melt but rebounded to have record numbers in July and August to make for a very busy use season.
- Lake Superior shoreline erosion continues to be a concern. The stairway to Lake Superior is currently closed indefinitely until the shoreline stabilizes and reconstruction of the stairway can take place. The trail from the Lake Superior Overlook is being used as an alternate access for campers.

Straits State Park & Mackinac Island Harbor

- Hired a consultant and are working on design phase for a new toilet shower building at Mackinac Island Harbor.
- A section of sewer line was replaced in Straits State Park due to line damage by age and root damage.
- Straits ran the summer with only about 60% staff. The vacant lead ranger position was recently filled with a promotion of ranger Travis Kross. There are now 2 ranger vacancies that exist and those have been posted on NeoGov with an ending date of October 16.
- The Visitors Bureau held the PowWow at the Father Marquette site within Straits State Park. Also held was Trek the Mac which had 576 ORVs ride across the Mackinac Bridge and through the trail corridor within Straits State Park.
- Overall attendance has been strong and above last year. Straits State Park was a test park selling print on demand recreation passports. The program went well and will reduce printing costs in the future.
- The Michigan History Center has received a $500,000 National Endowment for Humanities Grant and is in the process of seeking donations for a $1.5 million match. This grant will be for redevelopment of the Father Marquette site within Straits State Park.
- Finding quality staff was an issue this past season and it appears will be for next season as well.

Trails Section Unit Report – East UP

- Rail-Trail Projects: Working on purchase of Strongs to Raco Rail Road Corridor.
Snowmobile Trail Updates
- Grant Sponsor Preseason meetings were held the 10/9, 10, 11 in the UP.
- Grant Sponsors are getting started on working on trails.
- Shifted some grooming responsibilities for several clubs to add some efficiencies to the program.

ORV Trail Updates
- Most grant sponsors have finished up the 2018 trail maintenance.
- Still have Moran to Detour proposal in the system for approvals.
- Lots of use widely spread across the EUP.
- Many calls asking where to ride, many people just wanting to do it right and be legal.
- Trail improvement project was awarded to a contractor and about 1/3 complete, rain is beginning to slow down construction progress.

Equestrian Trail Projects: Headquarters Lake Equestrian Trail Proposal was approved and working with a local group to get it signed.

Pathway Projects: 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; this section was moved this summer.

Event/Use Permits:
- Working on a winter Drummond Island Jeep Jamboree, evaluating closely for snowmobile trail protection.
- Whitefish Twp and Newberry Schools have gotten permits to use hiking pathways for cross country events.

General
- I spent nearly 7 weeks in Houghton overseeing construction crews working on the trail damage from the June 21st Father’s Day Storm. Recent rains are slowing construction progress.

Law Enforcement Division (LED): Lt. Skip Hagy, District 2
Law Enforcement Division’s latest Recruit School #9 began July 15th with 32 recruits as of this writing. 24 remain with graduation for those successfully completing the Academy in December. Below are some of the activities officers have been involved in since the Joint CAC in August.

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 7-29-18
- CO Calvin Smith assisted the Michigan State Police, Luce Co Sheriff Department and the Michigan Department of Corrections with an escaped inmate. CO Smith helped secure the inmate and safely return him to the custody of MDOC.
- CO Calvin Smith was contacted at 1:45 A.M. by Central Dispatch regarding a lost hiker near Tahquamenon falls. CO Smith used his ATV to navigate the North Country trail system to search for the missing hiker. The missing hiker was located within three hours and returned to his group in good health.
- CO Calvin Smith assisted with a one car roll over near the town of Newberry. CO Smith secured the scene until an MSP trooper arrived.
- Cpl. Mike Hammill and CO Calvin Smith patrolled Lake Superior checking for commercial and tribal fishing nets.
- COS Colton Gelinias and Calvin Smith conducted a patrol of the Straits of Mackinac looking for marine violations. Several yachts were found to be operating without registering their vessel with the Secretary of State, avoiding paying sales tax. Law enforcement action was taken.
- COSs Tom Oberg, Justin Vinson, and Calvin Smith patrolled the Chicago to Mackinac Island yacht race in response to concerns about marine safety. The COSs noted very high compliance with marine laws, but did issue six citations for unregistered watercraft.
- COSs Colton Gelinias and Calvin Smith were notified by Central Dispatch of a vehicle that became stranded near the Crisp Point lighthouse. A local towing company found the vehicle, but the operator had left on foot and was nowhere to be found. The COSs used their knowledge of the area, located a very emotional and thankful woman nearly three miles from her car. The COSs gave her water and called for EMS to have her checked for dehydration.
- CO Tom Oberg received a complaint of an illegally shot Canada goose near Sault Ste. Marie. CO Oberg contacted the suspect and conducted an interview. After a few minutes of the suspect denying he shot a goose, he finally confessed to seeing a goose in his yard and shooting it. CO Oberg advised the suspect that it is not goose season. CO Oberg seized the firearm that was used in the violation. A report is being compiled and will be sent to the Chippewa County Prosecutors Office.
• **CO Tom Oberg** helped instruct an ORV safety class at the DNR Ralph A. MacMullan Center. Throughout the weekend, CO Oberg instructed the motorcycle portion of the class and helped teach individuals how to safely operate through the course that was set up. For some of the class this was their first experience on a motorized dirt bike.

• **CO Tom Oberg** was on patrol when he noticed a 4-wheeler exit a driveway and merge onto a local state highway not wearing a helmet. CO Oberg conducted a traffic stop on the 4-wheeler. CO Oberg advised the subject not only was he in violation for operating an ORV on a state highway closed to ORV operation, he was also in violation for not wearing a helmet or having valid ORV stickers. Enforcement action was taken.

• **CO Justin Vinson and Cpl. Kevin Postma** patrolled Mackinac Island and the straits area during the Port Huron to Mackinac Yacht races. Most boats were delayed due to weather conditions; however, those arriving were compliant and happy to have made the journey.

• **COs Colton Gelinas and Mike Evink** patrolled Lake Huron and Mackinac Island during the Chicago to Mackinac Island Yacht Race. A lack of wind delayed many of the boats’ arrival. Activity was somewhat subdued as a result.

• **CO Chris Lynch** was on patrol when he observed a pickup parked off the side of a two track. CO Lynch drove up to the truck to find the driver of the pick-up truck was lost and trying to locate his buddy. His buddy was riding a dirt bike that had broken down. CO Lynch located the dirt bike and its operator. He additionally guided the pickup driver to the location. Both were very thankful for CO Lynch’s help. The dirt bike operator had been broken down in the woods for some time and the pick-up truck driver had been looking for him almost as long.

• **CO Chris Lynch and Cpl. Mike Hammill** responded to a complaint of a set gill net in Lake Michigan near Ludington Park. Once the COs arrived on scene they contacted a group of tribal members that had just removed fish from the net. It was determined that one of the tribal members had a subsistence license. The owner of the net set his net outside of the appropriate treaty area. The net was seized, turned over to tribal law enforcement and the tribal member received a citation.

• **CO Stephen Butzin** was on patrol in the Masonville Township area. He responded to a reported explosion where black smoke was rising from a wooded lot near a residence. The officer observed an individual burning building material, metal, garbage, and shingles. The Masonville Township fire department responded and extinguished the fire. The individual was issued a citation for illegal disposal of solid waste.

• **CO Mark Zitnik** attended MSP’s training center in Lansing for the 2018 Michigan Conservation Officer Academy Recruit School 9’s first week assisting with instructing the new recruits.

• **CO Mark Zitnik** was heading to check a local trout pond on M-94 when he observed an ORV operating down the state highway. A traffic stop was made, and the CO noticed several violations. The operator of the ORV had a suspended driver’s license, no ORV license, and was operating on a public highway. Enforcement action was taken.

• **CO Stephen Butzin** was patrolling Garden Township. He observed an ORV traveling down a county road without a helmet or ORV registration. Upon further investigation the driver was also found to be in possession of a loaded firearm while operating a motor vehicle. With the substantial number of violations enforcement action was taken.

• **CO Stephen Butzin** was patrolling Garden Township. He observed a dirt bike operating down a county road without a helmet or ORV registration. Upon further investigation CO Butzin found that the individual had a suspended driver’s license. Enforcement action was taken.

• **COs Bobby Watson and Stephen Butzin** were beginning a day of marine patrol on Little Bay De Noc when they noticed a fishing boat off in the distance returning to the launch. The COs decided to continue on their original path rather than attempt to make contact with the boat. After some time, unexpectedly high winds changed the day’s patrol plans. As a result, COs Watson and Butzin returned to the launch. The boat the two witnessed earlier was still in the parking lot, the owner had blown a brake line. At this time it was discovered the owner failed to register his boat. Enforcement action was taken, and the two CO’s escorted the truck and trailer safely back to the boater’s residence.

• **COs Bobby Watson and Chris Lynch** patrolled the Manistique Salmon Derby. Many contacts were made throughout the day with fisherman taking part in the tournament. Few fish were being caught and compliance was high.

**District 2 Bi-Weekly Report 8-13-18**

• **CO Bobby Watson** responded to a complaint of a resident shooting multiple deer that have been munching on the landowner’s garden. The investigation is ongoing.

• **CO Bobby Watson** was patrolling with **Cpl. Mike Hammill** when contact was made with an ORV travelling down a local side street. The ORV was not properly registered. The owner of the ORV stated he was letting his father borrow the ORV for yard work and claimed that the lights on his trailer were not working, and so he chose to drive his ORV to his father’s house rather than trailer it. The owner was informed that any time the ORV leaves private property it must be registered. A warning was given, and the owner was given 24 hours to purchase an ORV registration.

• **CO Robert Freeborn** investigated a complaint of a nuisance beaver that was damaging a subject’s property. Upon further investigation, it was determined the beaver had fallen several trees onto the subject’s residence as well as a wood shed and log splitter. A permit was issued for the landowner to trap the beaver.

• While on routine patrol **CO Robert Freeborn and Officer Tembruell** from the US Forest Service overheard local radio traffic regarding a highly intoxicated subject, parked in a middle of road standing outside of his vehicle. Since the officers were the
closest law enforcement to the incident, they responded to assist. Upon arrival to the area, the Officers located the suspect’s vehicle parked along the road way with its 4-way flashers on, but the vehicle was unoccupied. Shortly after, the local deputies arrived on scene and began to look for the driver. After searching the surrounding woods, the officers located the driver hiding behind a shed in a neighboring residence yard. The suspect was extremely intoxicated and was arrest for Felony OWI by the deputies and was lodged.

- **CO Stephen Butzin assisted the Michigan State Police** in contacting a suicidal subject that claimed he wanted to hurt himself. A BOL was put out for the subject’s vehicle, a short time later the vehicle and subject were located. CO Butzin and the Michigan State Police contacted the individual and were able to get him the help that he required.

- **CO Stephen Butzin** encountered a vehicle traveling down a road way without a license plate. A traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle. Further investigation found that the vehicle did not have a valid registration nor valid insurance. Enforcement action was taken.

- **COs Stephen Butzin and CO Chris Lynch** were patrolling when they encountered two subjects who were known to have suspended driver’s licenses. Officers observed the subjects get into a vehicle and leave a local hiking area. A traffic stop was conducted. The driver of the vehicle was arrested and lodged at the Delta County Jail for driving while license suspended 2nd offense.

- **COs Stephen Butzin and Chris Lynch** were patrolling Garden Township. Officers observed a vehicle traveling down a highway without any head lights. Officers also observed the occupants were not wearing seat belts and had open containers of alcohol in their hands. A traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle and the officers noticed that the vehicle did not have a Michigan Registration but had an ORV Registration. Enforcement action was taken.

- **COs Stephen Butzin and Chris Lynch** were patrolling through Gladstone when they observed a vehicle swerving back and forth on a city street. The vehicle almost hit a parked car and was driving left of center multiple times. As the officers initiated a traffic stop, the vehicle came to a stop in the oncoming lane. Further investigation found that the operator was driving while under the influence of intoxicants. The driver was currently on bond for a previous Operate While Intoxicated charge and part of his bond conditions was not to consume alcohol. The driver was placed under arrest for another OWI charge and for violating his bond conditions from his previous OWI and was lodged at the Delta County Jail.

- **CO Mark Zitnik** was on M-28 patrolling to Munising when he noticed an Alger County ambulance running with lights and sirens towards him. The CO noticed a car would not yield to the emergency vehicle. A traffic stop was conducted, and enforcement action was taken.

- **District 2 Officers** conducted their annual fit for duty training in Escanaba, all but one officer participated in the event.

- **CO Justin Vinson and Acting Sgt. Michael Evink** patrolled several rivers to educate local fisherman about a more recent invasive species the New Zealand Mud Snail. Several anglers were contacted, most not aware of the species presence in the state. During the patrol several kayakers were found without life jackets. Law enforcement action was taken.

- **COs Calvin Smith, Colton Gelinas, Thomas Oberg, Justin Vinson, and Acting Sgt. Michael Evink** conducted a group patrol to reduce ORV damage along the Lake Superior shoreline. All those contacted were compliant.

- **COs Colton Gelinas and Calvin Smith** contacted several trout fishermen and informed them of the procedure for New Zealand Mud Snail decontamination. An invasive aquatic species that can be transmitted from one body of water to the next by fishermen and boaters.

- **COs Colton Gelinas and Calvin Smith** were on patrol in Northern Chippewa County when they came across a pair of ORV riders. The first ORV operator flagged down the COs and asked where the closest place was to purchase fuel. The second ORV operator came to a stop approximately 30 feet from the COs, thinking this was strange behavior the COs walked up to the second ORV and he was found to be operating without an ORV license and had his driving privileges suspended. Law enforcement action was taken.

- **CO Calvin Smith** was returning to his residence when he observed an ORV that was not manufactured to carry passengers, being operated with two people on it. A stop was made, and CO Smith educated the young adults on the law.

- **CO Calvin Smith** assisted the Mackinac County Sheriff’s Department with a Canadian National Railroad train that derailed near Rexton. Fortunately, there were no injuries and the only cars that derailed were carrying iron ore pellets.

- **CO Tom Oberg** was on patrol when he received information from Central Dispatch of a suicidal subject nearby. CO Oberg responded to the address and contacted the mother and father of the subject who did not know where their son was. After a couple hours of searching the nearby area and checking locations that the subjects cell phone was pinging at, the subject returned home without injuries.

- **CO Tom Oberg** was on patrol when he noticed a vehicle coming at him head on. The vehicle almost went into the ditch swerving to avoid collision with the COs truck. A traffic stop was made on the vehicle. The driver was a very new and inexperienced driver and informed CO Oberg that they were playing with the CD player and lost control. CO Oberg spoke with the subject about distracted driving and the seriousness of it. Enforcement action was taken.

- **CO Colton Gelinas** was on patrol in Mackinac County when he observed a side by side operating down a state highway. CO Gelinas stopped the side by side. The driver was under the false assumption they could drive on the road like vehicles. CO Gelinas informed the driver that ORV’s can operate on county roads, but not state highways. A ticket was issued to the driver for the violation.
District 2 Bi-Weekly 8-27-18

- District CO’s participated in the UP State Fair Pocket Park by staffing the park and answering questions, several hundred contacts were made by officers during the week-long event.
- District 2 held a District Meeting with LEIN training and firearms qualification training taking place.
- CO Bobby Watson was on foot patrol and checking on what appeared to be an illegal ORV trail when the sound of ORV’s were heard coming through the woods. CO Watson tried cutting the machines off but knew they were moving too quickly to intercept. CO Watson then changed course and headed for his truck. CO Watson was nearing his truck when the two ORV’s drove around the parked truck and turned onto a trail. CO Watson followed the tracks back to a nearby camp where he contacted the fathers of two young riders. CO Watson discovered after talking with the group that the young riders had seen his parked truck and dropped off two of their friends who were illegally riding double, and without helmets. CO Watson warned the young riders of riding double and without the required helmet. CO Watson then left the area, meeting the two dropped off young riders along the trail, who also were educated on proper operation of an ORV.
- COs Robert Freeborn and Bobby Watson continued their investigation into the string of early deer baits they located this summer.
- CO Robert Freeborn and US Forest Service Officer Dave Tembruell closed off an illegal ORV trail.
- COs Robert Freeborn and Stephen Butzin assisted Cpl. Mike Hammill in locating an illegal gill net in Lake Michigan. The COs searched the reported area for over an hour but were unable to find the net.
- CO Robert Freeborn and US Forest Service Officer Dave Tembruell investigated a report of air boat activity in a remote section of Schoolcraft County. The Officers located several areas of interest and will be looking into the matter further. Investigation is ongoing.
- CO Stephen Butzin was on patrol in the Gladstone area when he observed a large cloud of black smoke rising from a residence. The Officer contacted the homeowner who was found to be burning tires and bed frame material. The homeowner was cited for unlawful open burning and the fire was extinguished.
- CO Stephen Butzin was unloading his ORV when he was passed by several other ORV riders. The Officer observed the operators drive into an area closed to ORV’s on state land. When contacted along with the closed area violations one of the operators was found to have a suspended driver’s license. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Stephen Butzin was on patrol on the Escanaba River when he encountered an individual fishing at a local fishing pier. Upon talking to the individual CO Butzin observed that the individual was in possession of an undersized walleye. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Stephen Butzin was on patrol near Gladstone when he encountered a juvenile riding an ORV without supervision. The operator was 15 years of age and operating on the state trail system. The operator was informed on the laws regarding juveniles and ORV’s, the parent was contacted and enforcement action was taken.
- CO Mark Zitnik was patrolling into Munising when a car pulled out in front of him. CO Zitnik slammed on his breaks and turning at the last minute to avoid the collision with the vehicle. A traffic stop was made, and CO Zitnik advised the driver of the dangerous position she had put her and her three children in. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Mark Zitnik was on patrol checking for ORV violations when he came across an ORV that did not have the current ORV license. When the CO asked the driver if he had an ORV sticker, the driver stated he does not have one and he knows he is getting a ticket, CO Zitnik told him he was correct and cited the subject for the violation.
- CO Mark Zitnik was patrolling on Lake Superior when he observed two kayakers’ in a group that did not have PFD’s. A stop was made, and enforcement action was taken.
- CO Calvin Smith assisted a Chippewa County Deputy with a search at a local residence for a stolen vehicle. While the two officers were in route to the residence two vehicles matching the description of the suspects passed them. Traffic stops were conducted on both vehicles, not only were their driver license’s suspended, but one suspect was also found to be in possession of illegal drugs. The suspects were arrested and lodged in the Chippewa County Jail.
- COs Calvin Smith and Tom Oberg participated in a three-day training course that focused on Preventive Radiological and Nuclear Detection during Maritime Operations. The multi-agency course was held on Lake Huron and trained officers how to detect and respond to radiological and nuclear threats.
- CO Calvin Smith was near the town of Paradise when he observed an ORV being operated on the shoulder of M-123. A stop was made, and CO Smith contacted a couple from Louisiana who had rented the machine to tour the local area. CO Smith gave the couple directions to the nearest trail along with a pamphlet on Michigan’s ORV laws.
- CO Calvin Smith checked a pair of Canadian fishermen that were trying their luck behind the United States Federal powerhouse on the St. Mary’s river. When CO Smith asked the pair to produce a Michigan fishing license they stated they did not need one as they were over the age of 65. CO Smith then advised them that they were fishing in US waters and were directly behind the Federal powerhouse. Law enforcement action was taken.
- CO Tom Oberg worked as an assistant instructor at the ORV Instructor Academy in Escanaba. CO Oberg focused his training on the motorcycle and dirt bike operation portion of the training. He educated the soon to be ORV instructors about the basics of motorcycle riding and operation.
CO Justin Vinson was on patrol when he observed an ORV being operated on M-28. CO Vinson stopped the ORV and asked the operator if they were aware it was illegal to operate an ORV on a state highway. The operator advised that the place they were rented from gave them this route. CO Vinson explained the laws pertaining to ORV operation and showed them a legal route to their destination.

CO Justin Vinson was patrolling Brevort Lake when he observed a broke-down vessel. CO Vinson contacted the occupants. CO Vinson assisted returning the boat to the launch. The boat was safely removed from the water. CO Vinson continued the patrol. Activity was slow on the lake but, one boat was found with an expired registration. Law enforcement action was taken.

District 2 Bi-Weekly Report 9-10-18

CO Bobby Watson discovered multiple illegal bear baits in preparation of the 2018 bear opener. The illegal sites will continue to be monitored for further activity.

While patrolling Masonville Township, CO Stephen Butzin and a Delta County Sheriff’s Deputy responded to a two-car accident. CO Butzin was first on scene, he checked the status of the occupants, and requested that EMS respond as well. Once EMS responded care was turned over to medical professionals. Thankfully both parties involved suffered only minor injuries.

CO Stephen Butzin responded to a report of a suicidal subject who was attempting to harm himself and other residents of the household. CO Butzin along with the Michigan State Police entered the residence and were able to secure the subject. Thankfully the situation was defused before any harm was done. The subject was transported by the Michigan State Police to the hospital where he will receive treatment.

CO Stephen Butzin received a complaint of a vehicle stuck in the mud on the Days River walking path in the Brampton Area. The Days River walking path is a non-motorized area. CO Butzin, as well as friends of the trail association and other DNR personnel searched the area for the vehicles. After a short search two vehicles were located on the trail. The vehicles were stuck on the narrow trail and had been abandoned. A wrecking company was called, it took over six hours to remove the vehicles from the trail via skid steer. The walking path and a bridge sustained severe damage caused by the vehicles. CO Butzin conducted several interviews and obtained multiple confessions from the owners of the vehicles and passengers inside the vehicles at the time they were operating on the walking path. Further investigation found that there were a total of three vehicles stuck on the path at one point. Several drivers were found to have suspended driver’s licenses. The two drivers of the vehicles now face tow bills of over $900, restitution to fix the path of nearly $3000, and charges of operating a wheel motor vehicle in a way not intended for such use and creating erosive conditions with an ORV.

While patrolling Garden Township, CO Stephen Butzin observed several individuals fishing at a local access site. Contact with the fishermen was made, one was found to be fishing without a license. A second fisherman was found to have a felony warrant out of Schoolcraft County. A citation was issued to the individual fishing without a license, and the other individual was arrested for the outstanding warrant.

CO Stephen Butzin was patrolling Garden Township. CO Butzin observed an ORV traveling toward him on a county road. A traffic stop was conducted on the ORV as the operator was not wearing a helmet. Further investigation found that the operator did not have a valid ORV registration and was in possession of a concealed firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Stephen Butzin was patrolling Garden Township. CO Butzin observed a vehicle traveling down a roadway following another vehicle closely and had other equipment violations. A traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle. Further investigation found that the driver of the vehicle had a suspended driver’s license. The driver was arrested and transported to the Delta County Jail.

Cpl. Mike Hammill and CO Mark Zitnik were on patrol when they came upon two vehicles parked near a walking path to a remote lake. The two COs located the two anglers who were very surprised to see the COs. One angler advised how excited he was to take his younger brother on the youth hunt next month and that the deer have been cleaning up his bait every night. CO Zitnik educated the young man on the correct time you can bait in Michigan. The angler was very happy that the CO instructed him to clean up his bait and wait until September 15th to start baiting.

CO Mark Zitnik responded to a 911 hang up at a Federal Forest Campground. Dispatch advised all they could hear was a law enforcement officer is needed. CO Zitnik responded to find a camp host had gotten into a verbal argument with a local camper who would not pay the full camping price because he has an AARP card. CO Zitnik spoke with the camper and advised he indeed needed to pay the full price, just like everyone else.

COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin worked the early goose season opener and contacted several waterfowl hunters. During the duration of the patrol the COs encountered several violations including possess lead shot, hunt without a base license, hunt without state waterfowl license, hunt without federal duck stamp, and fail to sign federal duck stamp. Two citations were issued, and 13 verbal warnings were given.

CO Robert Freeborn followed up on a possible net complaint in Indian Lake. CO Freeborn went with the complainant to several GPS locations where he thought he found old nets. CO Freeborn was unable to determine what exactly the structures were just by down scan alone. Investigation is ongoing.

CO Robert Freeborn received a complaint about dogs trespassing on private property. This is an ongoing issue with the two party’s involved. CO Freeborn will sit down again with both sides and explain the laws.
• **CO Tom Oberg and Acting Sgt. Mike Evink** patrolled the water around Drummond Island on Labor Day. Throughout the day citations were issued for Fishing without a license and failing to provide PFD. Several warnings were issued as well for various violations.

• **CO Tom Oberg** was on patrol when a call came from Central Dispatch regarding a two-vehicle injury accident not too far from CO Oberg’s location. CO Oberg arrived on scene and assisted the Chippewa County Sheriff’s Office and Michigan State Police. The occupants were transported by EMS to War Memorial Hospital with minor injuries.

• **COs Tom Oberg and Calvin Smith** were on routine patrol when they came across an individual parked in a vehicle. The COs asked how his day was going and the suspect replied, “Good, I’m just checking my card from my camera.” After a short conversation the suspect admitted to baiting deer early and showed the COs his blind that had well over the legal limit of two gallons. Law enforcement action was taken for baiting deer prior to September 15th.

• **COs Calvin Smith and Tom Oberg** came across a group of ORV riders while on patrol near Paradise. Out of the five ORVs only two of them had the proper ORV license and none of them were wearing helmets. The COs explained the laws to the group and law enforcement action was taken.

• **CO Calvin Smith** came across an individual with a flat tire on his truck. CO Smith assisted the man with changing his tire and getting him back on the road. The individual was very grateful for the assistance. He said he was too exhausted from trying to jack the truck up off the ground and had been there for over two hours.

• **CO Colton Gelinas** was on ORV patrol in Luce County when he observed a dirt bike operating on a state highway. CO Gelinas contacted the dirt bike rider who was also operating without a helmet and had no ORV registration. CO Gelinas used this time to educate the young dirt bike operator on laws regarding ORV use in Michigan. CO Gelinas issued a citation for operating ORV without registration.

• **CO Colton Gelinas and Acting Sgt. Michael Evink** were on waterfowl patrol for the opening day of goose and teal season in Schoolcraft County. The night before season CO Gelinas received information from CO Mark Zitnik of possible illegal waterfowl activity in Schoolcraft County. CO Gelinas and CO Evink patrolled the area in question. The COs were observing waterfowl hunting activity on a small field. During the morning the COs observed two Sandhill cranes fly over their location followed by gun shots coming from the field. The COs contacted the group of hunters. During the interview with the hunters it was determined that one individual in the group shot both Sandhill cranes, which were recovered. Law Enforcement action was taken, and a report is being filed with Schoolcraft County Prosecutors Office.

• **COs Colton Gelinas and Justin Vinson** held a Hunter Safety class at Engadine Consolidated Schools. After the class portion and test, all students participated in a field day at Hiawatha Sportsman Club. CO Gelinas could not have done the field day without the help of volunteers from the Hiawatha Sportsman Club assisting in archery, shotgun and rifle. All 11 students received their Hunter Safety Certificate.

• **CO Justin Vinson** received several burning complaints from the Luce County Campground. Once in the area CO Vinson located where the burning was occurring and contacted the individual burning. The individual was educated on the requirement to legally burn. CO Vinson left the area and checked local streams. CO Vinson returned to the campground several hours later to see if the individual was taking proper precautions. An unattended fire was found with no sign of the subject CO Vinson had just spoken with earlier. The individual was contacted and law enforcement action was taken.

• **Acting Sgt Michael Evink** responded to a restaurant in Luce County that was burning their garbage in an open pit behind the restaurant. It was also a high fire danger day. When Sgt Evink entered the establishment, he was greeted with the manager saying, “oh you again”. CO Evink informed the manager that he had never been there before. CO Evink asked the manager to meet him by the burn pit. CO Evink explained laws pertaining to open burning and the disposal of solid waste. A ticket was issued for burning without a burn permit.

• **Acting Sgt Michael Evink** responded to search and rescue for a missing Dementia patient. While heading to the Search, his regional dispatch asked him to divert and assist a Michigan State Police Trooper who was preforming CPR on an individual outside of a local bar. CO Evink Assisted the Trooper and deployed his AED. After Paramedics arrived CO Evink continued to the search and rescue. CO Evink and the Trooper coordinated the search party to comb the woods close to the Facility the Dementia patient walked away from. After 4 hours of searching, an MSP K-9 was able to locate the confused woman. CO Evink and the Trooper carried the woman out of the woods. Unfortunately, the woman’s cat was less interested in coming with the officers.

**District 2 Bi-Weekly Report 9-24-18**

• **CO Bobby Watson** was returning to his residence after working the weekend of the second season bear opener when he observed a vehicle attempting to pass a semi-truck, motorcycle, and his patrol truck all at the same time. CO Watson allowed the vehicle to pass, and then observed the fast-moving vehicle attempt to pass yet another vehicle further down the road while forcing the oncoming traffic to slow down in order to avoid a head-on collision. CO Watson conducted a traffic stop and after a short conversation, issued the driver a citation for careless driving.

• **CO Bobby Watson** was patrolling in a local hotspot for grouse hunting activity when contact was made with a young pair of hunters who were driving in their truck. CO Watson was able to observe through the window a shotgun lying on a fully open gun case in between the driver and the passenger. CO Watson addressed the uncased firearm and enforcement action was taken.
While on routine patrol, **COS Robert Freeborn and Bobby Watson** observed 2 ORV’s traveling along a state highway. After stopping the ORV’s and talking with the driver’s, it was determined that they had been doing this all summer. A citation was issued for operate on a highway.

**COS Robert Freeborn, Michael Evink, Bobby Watson and CPL Mike Hammill** located a SSM tribal bear hunter that was driving cross country on CFA land to go around a Closed Road barricade on Federal Forest Land. The hunter was running over several trees in a new pine plantation causing the trees to become up rooted or snapped off. CO Freeborn has had similar incidents in years past with this hunter driving an ORV around a blocked road. When the hunter was asked about the incident, he denied ever doing so. Once CO Freeborn advised he was on camera, the hunter changed his story and stated that he did drive cross country but had permission from the land owner to do so. CO Freeborn then made a call to the forester that the hunter stated gave him permission. The forester advised that he only gave permission to retrieve a bear if they had shot one, but not to bait stand and haul barrels in and out on a weekly basis. The hunter had not shot a bear and had been baiting his stand for several weeks prior to season start. A citation was issued for operate in a closed area.

**COS Mark Zitnik and Robert Freeborn** checked a group of kayaks with subjects fishing. Upon checking the fisherman, it was determined that one was short a life jacket and another did not have a current fishing license. Enforcement action was taken on the fisherman.

**COS Robert Freeborn, Michael Evink and Lt. Skip Hagy** participated in CN Railroad/United States Coast Guard Mock Disaster training regarding response to an oil spill in a river flowing into Lake Michigan. The Officers learned the proper way to install and maneuver an oil slick boom with a patrol boat while Lt. Hagy was involved in the logistics of the Command Center during the incident.

**CO Mark Zitnik** was patrolling the opening of bear season when he came across a Side by Side UTV with occupants who had open intoxicants. The two subjects were from out of state and thought it was legal to drink and drive in an ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

**CO Mark Zitnik** was checking a hunter on opening day of bear season. When CO Zitnik arrived at the hunter’s blind he observed no hunter orange on the hunter. When the CO was spotted by the hunter he tried to put his hunter orange on. At the end of the 15-minute conversation the two had, the hunter decided to tell CO Zitnik he had a Concealed weapon permit and where his weapon was. Enforcement action was taken.

**Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon and CO Mark Zitnik** were patrolling Alger County during the opener of second bear season. Most hunters were in compliance with the law and happy to see the COs.

**Hunter Safety Instructor Dan Hinsa, Norm Balco, Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon, and CO Mark Zitnik along with help from Cody Norton and Don Brown** instructed the Hunter Safety class at Superior Central Schools. 20 students attended the class and received their hunter safety certificates.

**CO Mark Zitnik** was patrolling to a Hunter Safety class when he observed a side by side UTV operating on M-28. A traffic stop was made, and CO Zitnik asked the driver why he was operating on the highway? The operator of the side by side replied, “how else do I get to the ORV trails?” Enforcement action was taken.

**COS Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** were on patrol when a Sheriff Deputy near their location requested back up due to a subject fleeing on foot from him. The COS responded to the scene, which was a rustic campground, the deputy had two other subjects detained for possession of illegal drugs. CO Lynch was interviewing one of the detained subjects trying to determine who the subject that fled was. While interviewing the subject CO Lynch observed slight movement in a pop-up camper nearby. CO Lynch knocked and announced his presence several times on the door of the camper with no answer. A look through the screen window of the camper reviled a red sleeping bag in the shape of a human figure lying on the bed. CO Lynch advised the subject to come out but got no response. CO Lynch continued to shine his light on the subject and repeated his commands to go to the door. This time a face popped out of the sleeping bag with a subject pretending to have just woke up. CO Lynch told the subject nice try and the subject threw a fit and finally went to the door. CO Lynch asked the subject why he ran from the deputy and he said he had a warrant out for his arrest. The subject was placed under arrest and lodged in the Delta County jail on his warrant and enforcement action was taken on the other two subjects on scene for possession of illegal drugs.

**COS Chris Lynch, Bobby Watson, and CPL. Mike Hammill** attended the annual Youth and the Outdoors event held in Escanaba. The COS interacted with the public attending and the COS received several comments from people that they were glad to see the COS at the event.

**CO Stephen Butzin** was patrolling Masonville Township when he received a complaint that several ORV’s were taking up the roadway and creating a traffic hazard just up the road from his location. CO Butzin located two young ORV operators who did not have valid ORV registrations nor had they taken an ORV safety course. Enforcement action was taken.

**COS Stephen Butzin and Justin Vinson** attended the Division’s week long Waterfowl Enforcement training which took place in Bay City during the opening week of bear the UP season. The COS are taught enforcement techniques and how to identify the variety of waterfowl that pass through the state.

**COS Colton Gelinis and Calvin Smith** were on ORV patrol in Chippewa County when they observed a set of ORV tracks illegally entering onto Commercial Forest Land. The COS followed the tracks and located two men setting up a bear hunting blind. The COS educated the two men on ORV laws. Law Enforcement action was taken for failing to wear a helmet on an ORV.
■ **CO Colton Gelinas** was working in Mackinac County when he was dispatched to a report of a Wolf/Dog Conflict. CO Gelinas responded to the location and discovered that two bear hunting dogs had died from injuries they had sustained. A third dog was injured and another dog missing. CO Gelinas assisted the hunters getting their gear out of the woods and search for the missing dog which was located away from the area and ok that evening. CO Gelinas turned the information over to Wildlife Division.

■ **CO Colton Gelinas** was dispatched to a dead wolf alongside of M-28 in Chippewa County. CO Gelinas responded to the scene and observed a dead female wolf that appeared to have been hit by a car. CO Gelinas turned the wolf over to DNR Wildlife Division Personnel.

■ **CO Calvin Smith** located a bear hunter on National Forest Lands. The hunter had hung bait from a tree and had also cut numerous trees to create a shooting lane. Enforcement action was taken.

■ **CO Calvin Smith** assisted during the annual Tahquamenon Canoe Race. Participants from across Michigan and surrounding states took part in the race with no incidents reported.

■ **CO Tom Oberg** was on patrol when Central Dispatch put out a call of an accident involving injuries on a road that CO Oberg was just passing at the time. CO Oberg responded to the accident where the vehicle had left the roadway and hit a tree. CO Oberg assisted with first aid until EMS arrived on scene.

■ **CO Tom Oberg** was on patrol when he noticed a 4-wheeler coming towards him. As the 4-wheeler passed him, CO Oberg observed that the rider was not wearing a helmet, the 4-wheeler did not have ORV stickers, and the rider was not operating on the extreme right of the roadway. CO Oberg initiated a traffic stop on the ORV. CO Oberg explained the multiple violations to the rider and enforcement action was taken.

■ **COs Colton Gelinas, Tom Oberg and Justin Vinson** worked several patrols along the mouth of the Two Hearted River checking salmon anglers. Numerous fishermen were located with minimal success. All reports show the salmon are staged in Lake Superior just before they head upstream. Fishermen able to get a boat into Lake Superior near the river mouth report good catches of salmon.

**District 2 Biweekly Report 10-8-18**

■ **Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon and CO Mark Zitnik** held the second session of Hunter Safety at Munising Schools. Over 30 students participated in the class.

■ **CO Mark Zitnik** received a complaint of several subjects camping on private property in Grand Marais. CO Zitnik located the campers and found an unattended fire and live trees being cut. Once the CO made contact, he explained the violations to the campers and enforcement action was taken.

■ **CO Mark Zitnik** participated on the Ask the DNR panel for the live TV call in program. CO Zitnik answered law questions from citizens around the Upper Peninsula regarding the current and upcoming hunting seasons.

■ **CO Chris Lynch** was on patrol when he located live traps set in the woods. CO Lynch checked the Retail Sales System and noticed the trapper didn’t have a current trapping license. It was determined the trapper was failing to check his traps at all. CO Lynch interviewed the trapper and received a confession that the traps were set approximately a year ago and that he left the traps out after the season closed and hadn’t checked them since. The trapper was trapping without a license, trapping during the closed season, and failing to check his traps every 48 hours. Enforcement action was taken.

■ **COs Chris Lynch and Stephen Butzin** worked the waterfowl opener in Delta County. The CO’s encounter numerous violations including take waterfowl before legal shooting hours, possessing toxic shot, hunt within the safety zone, no federal duck stamp, fail to exhibit hunting license, fail to sign duck stamp, unregistered boats, and no PFDs. Several citations were issued, and numerous verbal warnings were given.

■ **COs Chris Lynch and Stephen Butzin** were on patrol when a call came out of a lost mother with her 2-year-old son in the woods. The COs responded to the area and to begin the search. After a short search the COs located the mother with her child and thankfully they were not in need of medical attention. The COs gave the mother and her child a ride out of the woods back to their car. The mother was very appreciative of the COs help.

■ **CO Stephen Butzin** was patrolling Masonville Township when the officer located a bow hunter that was baiting well over the legal two-gallon limit. The hunter was issued a citation for baiting more than two gallons.

■ **COs Stephen Butzin and Chris Lynch** were on patrol when they observed several ORV’s traveling down a county road without valid registrations. A traffic stop was conducted, and one operator was issued a citation for not having a valid registration. Several warnings were given for burnt out tail lights/headlights.

■ **CO Stephen Butzin** was patrolling Masonville Township when he observed a vehicle parked off a forest two track with bird dogs in the back. The Officer approached the vehicle and noticed one of the dogs was gone and there were two empty gun cases in the vehicle. The Officer tracked the hunters and observed them shooting at several birds. Upon further investigation CO Butzin found one hunter to be hunting without a valid base license. A citation was issued.

■ **CO Bobby Watson** was patrolling a busy gravel road that had an unusual amount of traffic due to the changing of the fall colors. CO Watson observed two ORV’s, one of which did not have headlights on, was operating with an additional passenger when the ORV was not designed for it and did not appear to have an ORV registration sticker. CO Watson made contact. It was discovered that the ORV did not have working headlights or brake lights and the operator was not aware an ORV registration sticker was required within National Forest. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a complaint of a moose stuck within a cow pasture that was enclosed with an electric fence. Upon arrival it was obvious the moose was stressed from all the attention it had brought to the area and was pacing back and forth along the fence edge. CO Freeborn was able to coax the moose to the far end of the pasture where there was a gate. CO Freeborn was able to open the gate and the moose ran to a nearby wood line.

- **COs Robert Freeborn, Stephen Butzin and Chris Lynch** helped with the hunter’s safety field day at the pocket park in Escanaba. All the students enjoyed the hands-on training, and all passed their final test.

- **COs Robert Freeborn and Steven Butzin** received a call from dispatch that the local county units need assistance with a naked man riding an ORV around a neighborhood on a chilly 43-degree day. The suspect has had several contacts with local law enforcement in the past and has been known to resist arrest. Upon arrival, the officers located the suspect in his back yard still lacking clothing. The officers tried talking to the suspect for several minutes but were unable to convince the suspect to get medical help. After some resistance, the suspect was taken into custody and transported to the local ER for a psych evaluation. The COs assisted the deputy’s while at the ER as well until the staff had the suspect under control.

- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a complaint from local dispatch regarding an elderly gentleman stopped along a county road in a side by side and appeared to be confused. CO Freeborn located the subject getting fuel at a local station. Upon talking with the subject, it was determined he was almost 90 years old and was just out for a ride with his dog while his wife went out with friends for the evening. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the subject had an open beer in the ORV as well as an expired driver’s license due to vision loss from SOS. CO Freeborn advised the subject that he could not let him continue but would find a way to get him home safely. CO Freeborn was able to get the subject back to his residence with that assistance of a friend of the subjects in the area.

- **COs Robert Freeborn and Stephen Butzin** assisted local units in a two car Personal Injury Accident (PIA) on US2. The COs assisted in traffic control during a lane closure from the incident.

- **CO Michael Evink** was heading to double up with a US Forest Service LEO when a call came across the radio about a gentleman who was having stroke like symptoms. The gentleman was from out of the state and his cottage was on a small secluded lake in the Hiawatha National Forest. CO Evink used his knowledge of the area to arrive on scene well before EMS personal. CO Evink directed the EMS personal to his location and advised them the driveway was too steep and somewhat washed out for the ambulance to travel down. Once EMS personal checked the patient’s condition, CO Evink’s truck was used to transport the gentleman to the waiting ambulance at the top of the driveway.

- **CO Michael Evink** was on his way home from a long uneventful day of patrolling for ORV’s, when less than five miles from his residence he observed two dirt bikes traveling at him along a State Highway. One of the riders was pulling a wheelie in traffic lane. When the two riders noticed the CO truck they rapidly accelerated. CO Evink turned his truck and activated his emergency lights to make a traffic stop of the bikes. The bikes failed to stop and turned down the next ORV trail. CO Evink shut off his emergency lights and began to search for the bikes. CO Evink located dirt bike tracks heading down a dead-end trail. The dirt bikes were coming back out the trail when CO Evink again activated his emergency and both bikes came to a stop, briefly. This time only one of the two took off. CO Evink questioned the apprehended operator. After weighing his options, the bike operator was very cooperative. CO Evink transported the rider and his bike to the location where the second rider was located. CO Evink questioned the second rider, acquiring a confession. CO Evink issued tickets for Operating an ORV along a State Highway, Careless operation of an ORV and failing to stop for an Officer.

- **CO Mark Zitnik and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon** worked the waterfowl opener on Forest Lake Basin. The Officers encountered violations for possess lead shot, no hunting license, no PFDS, and unregistered boats. A few tickets and several warnings were issued.

- **COs Colton Gelinas and Justin Vinson** were on waterfowl patrol in Mackinac County for the opener of the Zone 1 waterfowl season. The COs were on a lake when they observed several boats operate without any navigational lights early in the morning. After the hunters got some shooting in, the COs contacted them and addressed the no navigational lights. Law Enforcement action was taken.

- **COs Colton Gelinas and Justin Vinson** were on patrol in Luce County. The COs contacted a group of hound hunters who were in possession of a dead bear. After further investigation it was revealed that the bear was shot by a youth hunting under the Mentored Youth program who did not possess a bear kill tag for the 2018 bear season. The COs explained to the youth about shooting a bear without a license and the penalties that can come with that offense. A report has been submitted to Luce County Prosecuting Attorney for charges against the youth’s Mentor.

- **CO Justin Vinson** received a complaint of a captive coyote in Mackinac County. After investigating and visiting the suspect's residence, it was determined to be a Tribal matter. The investigation was turned over to Sault Tribe for follow-up.

- **Sgt. Mark Leadman** located an illegal bear bait on state land with chocolate in the bait along with scent covered articles stapled into numerous trees around the bait site. Sgt Leadman returned several evenings until contact with the hunter was made. The hunter admitted to placing the chocolate and advised his hunting partner was just down the road with the same bait. Both hunters were located and all illegal activity was addressed. Enforcement action was taken and the bait sites were cleaned up.

- **Sgt. Mark Leadman** was patrolling HAP lands in Chippewa County when he observed several vehicles parked in the back of a field where it is posted “No Vehicles on HAP lands”. Sgt Leadman contacted the group as they were packing up and leaving the property. The group had been hunting geese and ducks on the opening weekend and explained they had permission from the
landowner to hunt geese and drive across the edge of the field. Follow-up with the landowner confirmed he had given permission.

- **CO Tom Oberg** was on patrol on Drummond Island when he came across a truck and trailer backed way off a two-track road. CO Oberg heard a 4-wheeler was coming back to the location of that truck. When the 4-wheeler returned, CO Oberg noticed that the driver was not wearing a helmet and did not have a current ORV license. Enforcement action was taken.

- **CO Oberg** was on patrol when he noticed a vehicle approach him very quickly from behind. CO Oberg made a lane change to pass a slow-moving vehicle in front of him. The vehicle behind CO Oberg decided to pass at the same time and quickly moved back over before CO Oberg had time to complete his lane change, almost resulting in the subject rear-ending CO Oberg. CO Oberg performed a traffic stop on the vehicle for careless driving. Enforcement action was taken.

### Eastern UP Fisheries Division

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

- Fieldwork for the Newberry fisheries crew has just about wrapped up. In October, area trout lakes are being trap netted to evaluate stocking success. Lakes being evaluated are Holland Lake, Rock Lake, Hike Lake, and Bette’s Lake.

- Marquette Hatchery staff has completed stocking of Brook Trout into area waters. This time of year fall fingerling Brook Trout are stocked, typically averaging six inches in length.

- Field staff stocked 150 northern strain Muskellunge into Kingston Lake, Alger County. Fish came from a northern Wisconsin hatchery.

- In preparation for the 2019 rearing cycle, field staff are treating Walleye rearing ponds with piscicide.

- Staff attended the WUPCAC and NRC meetings held at the Porcupine Mountains in Ontonagon.

- Staff also participated in the Lake Superior Basin Team meeting. Topics for discussion included Sea Lamprey treatments on Lake Superior streams, Marquette Hatchery operations, Walleye management, Sea Lamprey barrier proposal, and cisco regulations.

- Compartment reviews across the state are being held from September through November. Fisheries staff participates in each offering technical guidance on best management practices near surface water. East UP Compartment Reviews include Gwinn, Shingleton, Newberry, and Sault units.

- Fisheries staff participated in the Forest Certification Surveillance review for the Sault Unit in October.

- This year the salmon run on the Two Hearted River was a bit later than in previous years. Rule of thumb has been September 15, but this year’s run occurred during the last week of September into early October.

- Muskellunge and Lake Sturgeon Registration System Update: As of September 25, nine (9) anglers registered a harvested muskellunge using either the phone or online system.

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

**Thompson Fish Hatchery**

- Second round of grading of our steelhead fingerlings have begun. Fish are behind on growth compared to previous years due to fish health issues. Several rounds of antibacterial treatments have been initiated.

- Expect to receive Chinook eggs from Swan Weir this week.

- Mass marking of steelhead fingerlings to commence next week. Second of five years for this project.

- Progress is being made on the first phase of the capital out lay project.
  - The first well for the cool water part of the project was competed and it’s a high producer (400-500 gpm with 50-100 gpm artesian flow). The second well is being drilled now.
  - Following development of second well, both wells will be pump tested.
  - The area for the cool water facility was marked for a timber sale. Sale and harvest is expected this winter.
  - Working on a daily basis over the past several weeks with the design firm as they progress in the design process for the cool water facility and the upgrades at the hatchery for steelhead.
  - On track to complete design process in order to start construction in the spring of 2019.

- Maintenance staff have been busy with various projects including rebuilding all our inside tank valves, fabricating steps and a water pump screen for the mass marking trailer, etc.

**Marquette State Fish Hatchery**

- Egg takes have been started for lake trout and splake.

- Wild fish collections in Cherry Creek have been made for fish health testing.

- Antibiotic injections have been completed for all spawning lake and brook trout.

- Private tour of hatchery provided for new NRC member (John Walters).

- Fisheries technicians have been assisting with various field work projects.
▪ Expect to make tissue collections for virus testing (EEDv) of wild lake trout in the Marquette area this week. Working with private fish wholesaler.
▪ Staff involved with various projects including dredging of the sand trap, pumping of the settling basin, cutting a concrete wall out of a diversion box to facilitate air exchange in the building (radon reduction strategy).

Public Information Office: John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer
The exciting fall season is well underway, including the new season of “Ask the DNR” on WNMU-TV13. The Nov. 1 show will focus on the upcoming deer season and the Dec. 6 program will feature Michigan Natural Resources Commission Chairwoman Vicki Pontz who will be traveling to the Upper Peninsula from Ionia to appear on the program.

We are also gathering story ideas for the 2019 series of Showcasing the DNR feature stories. We are looking for stories about personal experiences folks have had enjoying the outdoors, project highlights, interesting, off-the-beaten path ideas – a wide range of possibilities. To submit a story idea, send it to me at pepinj@michigan.gov.

During the end of September, into early October, I was part of the team working to relocate gray wolves to Isle Royale National Park. I obtained photos and video we will be able to use here at the DNR. I also wrote a bit about my experience there in a Showcasing the DNR story Oct. 11.

As always, if you have ideas or suggestions on how to better our communications with the public, please get them to me. I can also be reached at 906-226-1352.