



Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: April 2019

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

Public Meetings

- April 2 Conversations & Coffee with Fisheries Staff, Tahquamenon Public Library–Newberry, 6–8:00pm
April 4 Conversations & Coffee with Fisheries Staff, Holiday Inn Express–Munising, 6–8:00pm
April 9 UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, Gogebic–Ontonagon ISD–Bergland, 1:00pm
April 9 UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, Hiawatha FS Office–St. Ignace, 1:30pm
April 10 UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, DNR Baraga Office, 4:00pm
April 11 Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing
April 11 Ask the DNR TV Program, WLUC–TV13, 8:00pm
April 15 Eastern UP Citizen’s Advisory Council Meeting, Newberry, 6:00pm
April 16 Foresters for Fish Forum, River Rock Lanes–Ishpeming, 5:00pm
April 16 Conversations & Coffee with Fisheries Staff, LSSU Anchor Room–Sault Ste. Marie, 6–8:00pm
April 23 Conversations & Coffee with Fisheries Staff, Gogebic Community College–Ironwood, 6–8:00pm Central
April 24 Conversations & Coffee with Fisheries Staff, Ishpeming Township Hall–Ishpeming, 7–9:00pm
April 25 Conversations & Coffee with Fisheries Staff, Portage Lake District Library–Houghton, 7–9:00pm
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U.P. State Park, State Sponsored & Other Area Notable Activities

- May 18 Tahquamenon Falls State Park – National Kids to Parks Day Hike
May 19 Michigan Iron Industry Museum – Museum Open House (Negaunee)
June 7 ORV Instructor Academy – Escanaba (Contact 989–619–3784 for more information)
June 8–9 Free ORV Weekend
June 15 Fayette Historic State Park – Christmas in June
June 15 Wells State Park – Crafty Campers Arts and Crafts Sale
June 16 Michigan Iron Industry Museum– Iron, Steel and the Automobile
June 21 Van Riper State Park– Archery 101
June 22 Muskallonge Lake State Park – Hunting for Superior Rocks and Agates
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Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- Showcasing the DNR: Monument men, surveying Michigan’s land (4/4/19)
- DNR wants reports of spring runoff concerns on state–designated trails in Houghton County (4/3/19)
- Prescribed burns, new fishing season, state park photos (4/1/19)
- Baraga State Park set for \$1.2 million campground upgrades (3/28/19)
- DNR reminds snowmobilers of season’s state designated trails closure (3/28/19)
- Showcasing the DNR: Developing new birdwatching trails across Michigan (3/28/19)
- DNR awards \$100,000 in UP Deer Habitat Improvement grants (3/25/19)

- Spring ORV riding, adopt an osprey nest, firewood on forest land (3/25/19)
- Share your thoughts with the DNR at upcoming meetings (3/21/19)
- Showcasing the DNR: A visit to Michigan’s most remote state park (3/21/19)
- New boating and fishing laws take effect March 21 (3/18/19)
- Leave a forest legacy, safer boating, fireworks-free camping (3/18/19)
- DNR conservation officers play vital role in capture of child abduction suspects in Chippewa County (3/15/19)
- DNR reports moose survey results to Michigan Natural Resources Commission (3/15/19)
- Showcasing the DNR: Director, divisions set goals and priorities for 2019 (3/14/19)
- Coyote sightings, Master Anglers, new requirement for pet stores (3/11/19)
- DNR issuing supplemental deer feeding permits in southern UP counties (3/8/19)
- Showcasing the DNR: The power of silence (3/7/19)
- Chat with fish staff, high school career program, ORV instructor academy (3/4/19)

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

Western UPCAC Update

Western UP Citizen’s Advisory Council Meeting – March 21 in Iron Mountain

- New WUPCAC Member introductions
- Marquette County Shooting Range Update
- CWD & UP CWD Taskforce Update
- Trail Signage Update
- Deer Camp Survey Results
- Moose History/Discussion (some feel the need for an official moose management plan)
- Resolution Response Review
- Subcommittee Reports

There were no resolutions passed by the Council. However, there were a several public comments regarding a resolution passed at the January WUPCAC meeting that were not viewed as favorable:

No size limit on muskellunge and northern pike and a no maximum or daily high possession limit as a special regulation on the Paint River. The next WUPCAC meeting will be held Wednesday, May 22 at MTU in Houghton.

April 2019 NRC Meeting Summary – John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met in Lansing on April 11, 2019. Major actions taken:

- The commission approved statewide trout, whitefish, lake herring and smelt regulations. This included regulations on brook trout bag limits in the Upper Peninsula, adding back to the order 33 streams where a 10-brook trout daily bag limit applies, streams that had been inadvertently deleted from this fisheries order late last year. However, the commission voted to sunset the higher bag limit on these 33 streams on Oct. 1, 2019, with

the intent to have a future broader commission discussion on this issue. The regulations also included a change to the daily bag limit for lake trout on Grand Traverse Bays, from two fish to one fish. The department is required to take this action under provisions of the 2000 Content Decree agreement between the State of Michigan, the U.S. government and certain tribal governments.

- DNR Director Dan Eichinger approved the Generally Accepted Operation Practices for Sport Shooting Ranges for ranges managed by the DNR. These newly approved practices remain unchanged from those currently in effect.
- The Director approved a May 7 Oil and Gas Lease Auction. Some 4,100 acres are available for lease in nine counties.
- The Director approved seven land transactions. Details of those transactions can be found in the NRC agenda.

The Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee met first today. Deb Jensen of the Parks and Recreation Division presented general management plans for North Higgins Lake State Park and South Higgins Lake State Park. North Higgins includes camping and access to Higgins Lake, the Historic Higgins Lake Nursery and the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum. The park also encompasses the Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center, although that facility is managed separately. Like North Higgins, South Higgins includes opportunity for people to swim, boat, hike, camp and bike. Plans for the two parks include continued efforts to address aquatic invasive species; developing playgrounds through private funding; redeveloping a shooting range; replacing toilet and shower buildings; improving the nursery and CCC Museum; and constructing modern cabins with existing underground utilities. The committee approved resolutions supporting the plans for these parks.

Deb also presented for the committee's information Phase 2 of management plans for Saugatuck Dunes State Park and Warren Dunes State Park. Both parks have Lake Michigan frontage, critical dunes and natural areas. Saugatuck Dunes is a day-use-only park. Warren Dunes is a big camping destination. Both have seen significant increase in visitor numbers, doubling in the last five years.

Jackie Blodgett of the Parks Division told the committee about a proposed land use order that would affect park activities. The order would: prohibit sky lanterns in state parks because of fire concerns; grant the department the ability to temporarily close mountain bike trails when conditions might result in trail damage; close the DTE mountain bike trail and the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park to snowmobile use; and regulate the use of electric bikes and unmanned aircraft on state land.

Lawrence Falardeau of the Friends of Highland Recreation Area gave a presentation on the recreation area in northern Oakland County. The Ford family of automobile fame sold the land to the state that became the basis for the park. The park was established by P.J. Hoffmaster at the same time as the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. Among other distinctions, the recreation area was the first location for a national jamboree for the Girl Scouts, held in 1956.

Paul Yauk of the Parks and Recreation Division gave an update on state-managed trails. Snowmobile licenses were down a little bit this year, in part because of a late first snow. Clean-up and rebuilding of trails continues from last year's storm in Houghton County. The department has named the first state-designated water trails. The department has received another \$5 million in funding for development of the Iron Belle Trail. Some of this funding will be put toward mini-grants, some toward challenge grants requiring a local community match.

Jackie Blodgett also provided an update on a proposed new ORV area in Oakland County, which would be co-managed by the DNR and Oakland County Parks. The Oakland County Commission recently approved proposed terms for the park, but work remains to be done to finalize the arrangement between the DNR and the county. Milliken State Harbor opened this month for fishermen to rent slips. Some state park openings have been delayed because of snow, Jackie said. The Parks and Recreation Law Academy graduated 26 students this week.

Next was a meeting of the Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries. Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter said his division on Tuesday started walleye egg take on the Muskegon River. Some 35 million eggs are expected to be collected for the

Lower Peninsula walleye program. The division is preparing to take steelhead eggs at the Little Manistee River Weir. Coffee and Conversation meetings the division has held with the public are wrapping up, Jim said.

Wildlife Chief Russ Mason talked about the pheasant released hunting opportunity, provided by General Fund dollars made available last year. The birds will be released over two periods this fall at 13 state game areas.

On Saturday, the department will designate another Turkey Tracts site at the Holly State Recreation Area. Turkey Tracts are unique areas in the Lower Peninsula that provide great turkey hunting opportunities. The Holly Turkey Tract, opening this spring, will comprise 300 acres with miles of walking trails for hunters. The National Woodcock Wingbee took place in early April at the RAM Center. This is a gathering of biologists from Michigan and other states to examine woodcock wings to collect biological data.

Al Stewart of the Wildlife Division told the committee about proposed fall turkey regulations. The proposed regulations reflect no changes from the last three years in quotas, dates or hunting areas.

Adam Bump of the Wildlife Division reported on proposed 2020 furbearer and marten/fisher regulations, which are under development and run on a two-year cycle. Adam recounted concerns and issues raised by stakeholder groups regarding the regulations. Based on this feedback the proposed regulations will come before the commission in February 2020 for information and in March 2020 for action.

During the Committee of the Whole, Law Enforcement Division Chief Gary Hagler presented lifesaving awards to Conservation Officers Josiah Killingbeck and Scott MacNeill. In October 2018, CO Killingbeck responded to a domestic assault call in Lake County. The caller reported that his neighbor, a 27-year-old woman, was knocking on his door, covered in blood, stating that her boyfriend was trying to kill her. When Killingbeck arrived on the scene, the caller said that the woman had run into the woods. Killingbeck went into the woods and found the woman's boyfriend. The man, who was intoxicated, told Killingbeck that his girlfriend was inside the residence, trying to kill herself. During this time, Lake County Deputy Craig Mayo arrived on scene and helped Killingbeck secure the man in a safe location. The two officers approached and entered the smoke-filled home, where they found the woman coughing, lying on a mattress, covered by a blanket that had a pile of burning clothes on it. Killingbeck and Mayo removed the woman from the residence as it continued to fill with smoke, saving her life.

In January 2018, MacNeill and Michigan State Police Trooper David Storka responded to a call about a suspected suicide attempt. The call came from the victim's concerned mother, who said her 16-year-old son had sent her a text message that read, "goodbye." Storka and the victim's brother arrived at the same time to the victim's home. They found the 16-year-old boy in the backyard, unconscious and without a pulse. Storka was giving chest compressions to the victim when MacNeill arrived on scene with an AED. The officers continued CPR – MacNeill used a mask bag to deliver rescue breathing, while Storka continued chest compressions until Munson EMS arrived. The youth was transferred to Munson Medical Center where he was stabilized. He continues to make progress.

Gunnar Klarr presented the Shikar Safari Wildlife Officer of the Year Award, given to one CO each year for over-all dedication to duty. The recipient is selected by fellow conservation officers. This year's recipient is CO Todd Thorne. After receiving a bachelor's degree in fisheries and wildlife management from Michigan State University, Thorn graduated from the Mid-Michigan Police Academy – earning five of the six awards available to graduates. In 2010, Thorn was assigned as a conservation officer to Eaton County, where he has served since. Thorn has made numerous fish and game cases through unique patrol techniques, including kayak, dirt bike and mountain bike. As an instructor for the DNR Conservation Officer Recruit School Academy, he has taught emergency vehicle operations and survival tactics. Currently a field training officer, Thorn mentors new officers. He and his wife, Amanda, live in Eaton Rapids with their three children.

Dan O'Brien of the Wildlife Division updated the commission on bovine tuberculosis in the state's white-tailed deer population. Since 1995, the department has tested nearly 200,000 deer and has found nearly 900 tb-positive animals. In 2018, there were 26 TB-positive deer. Prevalence was down to 2.1 percent in 2018 from 2.3 percent in 2017, although the longer-term trend suggests a continued gradual increase. Nancy Barr of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and

Rural Development gave the commission a brief history of bovine TB in Michigan, cattle surveillance in Michigan, wildlife risk mitigation and biosecurity on farms.

Art Pelon, Michigan State Chapter president of the National Wild Turkey Federation, talked about the turkey patch program, a partnership between the DNR and NWTFF. This year's turkey patch design winner is Dane Lewis of Lake Orion.

Barb Avers of the Wildlife Division recognized Dave Luukkonen for receiving the Don Rusch Mississippi Flyway Waterfowl Conservation Award. Dave has retired as DNR wildlife research specialist and is now a research associate at Michigan State University. The award was established to recognize significant, long-term contributions to waterfowl management and research.

Russ Mason and Chad Stewart of the Wildlife Division gave an update on chronic wasting disease in deer. Russ told the commission about the recent finding of a CWD-positive deer on a Montcalm County deer farm. The two-year-old female was submitted for routine testing as part of the state's CWD surveillance program. Chad reported on best management practices identified by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in relation to chronic wasting disease. Michigan's management actions are well aligned with these best practices. Chad detailed the timeline for setting deer regulations for the approaching fall seasons. The intent is to bring to the commission a proposed order for information in May, hold that order over in June with action expected that month on antlerless deer license quotas, then ask the commission to take action in July on CWD regulations. Chad reported on the proposed mandatory Antler Point Restriction experiment in a five-county area of known CWD occurrence in western lower Michigan. The experiment is intended to evaluate whether APRs would impact deer abundance and sex and age composition. Moving the experiment elsewhere would not answer the same questions, Russ stated.

Elyse Walter of the Fisheries Division presented to the commission the Fisheries Division Annual Report. DNR Legislative Liaison Craig Brunet informed the commission of legislation related to the DNR. His report is below.

Legislative Updates – Anna Mooney, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

HB 4300 – Prohibit use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) by Department of Natural Resources, except in certain circumstances – Rep. Hoitenga

This bill prohibits the use of an UAS by the Department or a Department contractor to surveil, inspect, gather evidence or collect data about privately owned property. The Department may use a UAS if they are granted permission by the property owner, have a valid search warrant, believe that there may be an imminent threat to public health, safety, property, or the natural resources of the state, or to inspect a roadway, airport, port or similar infrastructure.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Communications and Technology.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4313 - Create a Pheasant Stamp – Rep. Howell

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection act by creating an annual pheasant hunting license. The annual license would cost \$25.00 and would require all hunters to also have the base hunting license. The Department shall use the money to acquire, restore or enhance lands to be managed for the benefit of pheasants, and to release pheasants on lands managed for the benefit of pheasants.

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

HB 4314 - Designate Official State Butterfly – Rep. Brixie

This bill designates the black swallowtail butterfly as the official butterfly of the state of Michigan.

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

HB 4340 – Prohibit the recording of individuals to obstruct or interfere with taking of animals or fish – Rep. Reilly

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection act to prohibit an individual from photographing or recording an individual lawfully taking an animal or fish with the intent to harass that individual. This language will join a list of other actions currently prohibited when the intent is to obstruct or interfere with an individual's lawful taking of animal or fish.

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

HB 4361 – Allow Individuals to Fish on Qualified Private Lakes Without a Fishing License – Rep. Sheppard

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by waiving the required all-species fishing license for individuals who reside on a Qualified Private Lake while fishing on that Qualified Private Lake. The individual must possess identification proving they reside on the Qualified Private Lake. A Qualified Private Lake is a lake that has no public access to the lake and where individuals who reside on the lake pay a fee to an association or group that uses at least a portion of that fee to stock fish in the lake.

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

HB 4362 – Establish Uniform Hours of Operation for Watercraft on Public Lakes – Rep. Sheppard

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by limiting the hours of operation a watercraft can be on a public inland lake to between 8:00 am and sunset, unless further limited by special rules promulgated by local ordinance recommended by the department. Rep. Sheppard has stated he is working on substitute language to better align language with his intent.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Government Operations.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4365 – Required Representation on Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board – Rep. O'Malley

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by requiring that of the 4 members appointed by the Governor, 1 individual must be a resident of the Upper Peninsula and 1 individual must be a resident of the Lower Peninsula, north of the Mason-Arenac Line.

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

SB 167 - Designate Official State Butterfly – Sen. Hertel

This bill designates the black swallowtail butterfly as the official butterfly of the state of Michigan.

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

SB 227 – Allow Improvements to Certain Areas to Prevent Invasive Species or Signage Regarding Invasive Species – Sen. MacGregor

This bill would add to the Public Improvements Act PA 188 of 1954, that Townships can make improvements to prevent invasive species or signage regarding aquatic weeds, plants and invasive species. Current law only allows for improvements to be made for the eradication or control of aquatic weeds and plants.

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

SB 37 – Deer and Elk Feeding – Sen. VanderWall

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to engage in deer and elk feeding during the open seasons.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and a hearing was held for testimony only on April 10th.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

HB 4244 Provide Appropriations for fiscal year 2018-2019; Natural resources trust fund – Rep. Green

This bill contains the recommendations made by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant awards. The recommendations include 30 land acquisitions and 34 development grants. The 64 total grant awards total \$26,044,000, while also leveraging \$15,877,600 in local match, for a total investment of \$41,921,600.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Appropriations. The bill passed out of committee as a substitute H-1, passed the House of Representatives, and passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee on 4/10/19.

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

Division Updates

Finance & Operations: Michelle Zellar, Eastern UP

- 2019 Michigan Fishing Guides are in effect and available at Customer Service Centers, various Field Offices and License Agents.
- Alexis Horton has been appointed as the DNR's Equity and Inclusion Officer. Alexis will develop strategies to educate employees about the governor's Executive Directive 2019-09 and other applicable rules, regulations and directives and receive complaints about any noncompliance related to these. She will also serve as the department liaison to the Civil Service Commission and Department of Civil Rights on matters involving equity and inclusion.
- Cheryl Ozanich, a secretary at the Naubinway Field Office, has retired after 45 ½ years of service. Her position has been advertised and will be filled pending interviews and selection.
- Applications for Non-Career and summer State Worker positions are available at the Customer Service Center. Vacancies for these positions are available via the website link <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/michigan> as well as local newspapers.

April/May 2019 Season Reminders

- April 14 – Beaver & Otter trapping close (Units A & B, except U.P. trout streams close 4/30)
- April 15 – Dog Training closes (also no hunting with dogs)
- April 22 – Spring Turkey opener (for the early hunts)
- April 27 – Trout Opener (Inland Waters)
- April 27 – Walleye and Pike season open for L.P. inland except note 3, p.13
- May 1 – May apply for Bear and Elk hunts; Fur Harvester licenses go on sale
- May 1 – Can obtain Kill Tags for Otter, Bobcat, Marten, and Fisher (Residents Only)
- May 1 – Deadline for returning Incidental trapping seals to DNR
- May 3 – Last day to register Otter from U.P. trout streams – see digest for April deadlines
- May 15 – Walleye and Pike open in U.P. inland / U.P. Great Lakes / St. Mary's River
- May 25 – Bass Opener (Catch and Keep Season)
- May 25 – Frog, Toad, Salamander/Mudpuppy seasons open (until 11/15)
- May 31 – Hand Net & Dip Net seasons close

EUP Wildlife Division: Terry Minzey, Wildlife Supervisor (prepared by Craig Albright)

- **Moose Survey Results** – The eastern U.P. population of moose is not formally surveyed but is thought to number fewer than 100 animals. This population includes animals living within the Seney National Wildlife Refuge and Tahquamenon Falls State Park. The western U.P. moose range covers about 1,400 square miles in parts of Marquette, Baraga, and Iron counties and is surveyed by airplane every 2 years. This year's survey was completed in February and produced an estimate of 509 animals. The west U.P. moose population is growing at a long-term average of about 2% each year.

- **Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative (DHPI) Grants** – This competitive grant program, now in its 11th year, is designed to enhance deer habitat on non-state lands in the U.P. Primary goals for each project include producing tangible deer habitat improvements, building long-term partnerships between the DNR and outside organizations, and showcasing project benefits to the public. This year, 12 applicants were awarded a total of \$100,000 for projects. Among the recipients of grants were various U.P. conservation districts, wildlife organizations/sportsmen clubs, and a land trust. The maximum amount of individual grants is \$15,000, and the minimum is \$2,000. The grant application period usually opens in January and closes March 1.
- **Snow Depth Monitoring** – Wildlife Division monitors snow depth and duration to assess potential impacts on over-winter survival and reproduction of deer. As of April 1, average snow depth in the U.P., as calculated from the National Weather Service’s “SNODAS” system, was 18 inches. The average depth for that date from 2004-18 was 11 inches. Thus far, there have been 84 days this winter in which average snow depth exceeded 12 inches (a depth that restricts mobility of deer) compared to the long-term average of 80 days on this date. The rate at which snow melts and green up occurs during April and May will be important in determining survival of last year’s fawns and production of new fawns by pregnant does this spring.
- **Spring Fawn-to-Adult Deer Survey** – When deer “break out” of winter shelter and become visible in fields and forest openings each spring, wildlife staff attempt to classify as “fawn” or “adult” 400-500 deer in each of 6 survey units. The resulting ratios provide an indicator of recruitment of fawns to the adult (1+ year-old) cohort. This information is helpful for assessing over-winter survival of fawns, projecting trends in deer populations, developing antlerless harvest recommendations, guiding habitat planning efforts, and facilitating information exchange with the public.
- **U.P. Deer Movement and Abundance Study** – The Michigan DNR and The State University of New York are partnering in a study to delineate seasonal movement patterns of deer and estimate abundance. This study will help determine management options for chronic wasting disease which was detected in a single U.P. deer last October. This was the second winter of the movement study. Working primarily in 4 deer wintering complexes in the west U.P., researchers collared 97 deer with GPS radio-collars, including 31 deer in the recently-established “CWD Core Surveillance Area” in southern Dickinson County. As of mid-March, no collared deer had begun migrations to summer range due to persistent deep snow cover. Researchers will be monitoring deer movements and mortality events during the coming months and estimating deer abundance using an un-baited camera array in each study location. For more information on this study, please visit this website: <https://campfirewildlife.com/projects/deer-movement>.
- **Spring Turkey Hunting Season** - The U.P. spring turkey hunting season will run from April 22 to May 31 with a bag limit of one bearded turkey per hunter. The license quota is 6,000, and as of April 1, there were still over 4,000 left-over licenses available for purchase online or from any license agent. Each spring, over 3,000 hunters participate in the U.P. spring season and harvest 1,000 to 1,400 turkeys.
- **Sharp-tailed Grouse Lek Counts and Section Occupancy Surveys** – Two types of sharp-tailed grouse surveys are underway in the eastern U.P. Since 1999 the DNR has partnered with the Hiawatha National Forest, Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Michigan Sharp-tailed Grouse Association, and other volunteers to survey “leks” where male grouse dance to attract females in spring. In 2018, surveyors monitored 31 leks and recorded 96 birds total. Chippewa and Schoolcraft counties routinely are at the top in terms of survey effort and birds observed. Beginning in 2009, a new “Section Occupancy Survey” was established within agricultural lands in Chippewa and Mackinac Counties. Rather than focus on specific lek locations, this survey uses square mile sections for sampling units. Survey participants record the presence or absence of sharp-tailed grouse within or adjacent to each of 37 sampling sections. Results can be extrapolated over the entire 167 sections of suitable habitat in the study area. The occupancy rate of potentially suitable habitat in these counties has been relatively high (84% in 2018). A portion of the Chippewa-Mackinac study area has been open to sharp-tailed grouse hunting since the fall of 2010, and these surveys provide information for formulating hunting regulations.

Marketing & Outreach Division (MOD): Jon Spieles, Education Services Section

- The first Salmon Summit took place January 26 and 27. The event brought together almost 40 teachers that have been raising salmon in their classroom for more than 10 years to share tips and techniques and to get the latest on aquatic invasive species in Michigan. The Salmon in the Classroom program is now in more than 250 classrooms around the state.
- More than 15,000 students have participated in Visitor Center or outreach programs since October. There have also been more than 50 public programs including ice fishing clinics, snowshoe-building classes and winter hikes, fishing rod building classes, winter survival courses, lantern ski events, owl prowls and many other activities and events that round out the winter programming at our nine facilities now open around the state.
- The Hard Water School at the Hunt and Fish Center in Cadillac took place February 9 and 10. The course brought more than 50 students from all over the state. Some of the most skilled ice anglers in the state volunteered to present and help participants fish. Ice conditions were near perfect this year and the fish were really biting – virtually everyone caught fish. The next Hard Water School is slated to take place on February 23 and 24.
- Work has started to recruit and hire more than 60 seasonal interpreters that will staff nine visitor centers and 45 State Parks next summer. Job fairs are being attended and postings have been prepared and are being delivered through numerous channels.

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

Spring time activities are finally getting in gear and officers have switched into that mode. Our new Probationary Conservation Officers are still all on track to begin their duties here in May. Sgt. Bob Hobkirk will be starting with us very soon covering the east half of the district. Below are some of the activity's officers have been involved in since the CAC in February.

District 2 Biweekly Report 2/24/2019 – 3/10/2019

- **CO Justin Vinson** and a deputy from the Luce County Sheriff's Office patrolled Luce County for snowmobile activity. The two officers were monitoring an intersection when they heard what sounded to be like sleds racing on a nearby road. Upon investigation the officers observed a man, not wearing a helmet, doing doughnuts on a snowmobile in the roadway. The man was stopped and it was discovered that he was also operating on a suspended license, was under the influence of alcohol, and had an outstanding warrant from the 92nd District Court. Law enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Mike Evink** were called out in the middle of the night to search for a missing snowmobiler. At approximately 3:15 a.m. a group of snowmobilers contacted 911 stating that they lost one of their snowmobile party members. They believed he had missed a turn on the trail. The group stopped for a break and when their cohort didn't arrive, they choose to continue and not look for their buddy. They continued 20 plus miles to where they were staying and contacted dispatch. Dispatch was able to ping his phone from three hours earlier and were able to use the information to determine a direction of travel. As the officers prepared to launch their sleds, they received a call from dispatch stating that a gas station clerk arrived at work to find a man sleeping on the ground in front of the gas station doors. His description matched that of the abandoned snowmobiler. MSP was able to respond to the scene and confirm the snowmobiler was safe, but cold.
- **CO Calvin Smith** was dispatched to a single snowmobile accident in northern Chippewa County. CO Smith was the first to arrive and rendered first aid to the victim who was suffering from a broken left arm. The snowmobiler had been operating off-trail when he hit a hidden object under the snow and was thrown from his sled hitting a tree. CO Smith stayed with the victim until EMS arrived and transported him to Helen Newberry Joy Hospital for further treatment.
- **Lt. Skip Hagy** attended a Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup meeting in Sault Ste Marie and along with Corporal John Morey from the Recreational Safety Section gave a presentation of the Division's snowmobile enforcement efforts for the season.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was patrolling the Hyde area when he encountered several lost snowmobile riders. CO Butzin assisted the riders in getting to their destination.

- **CO Colton Gelin** received a call from Mackinac County Deputy Jeremy Gagnon referencing a lost snowmobiler on Big Manistique Lake in Mackinac County. Due to blizzard conditions the snowmobiler was separated from the group on the lake and could not find their way back to shore. CO Gelin and Deputy Gagnon canvassed the shoreline in hopes of finding the lost snowmobiler. Deputy Gagnon was able to locate the snowmobiler at a vacant summer home on the lake. The snowmobiler was reunited with the group and advised to stay off the lakes until the storm passed.
- **COs Colton Gelin, Justin Vinson, and PCO Cole VanOosten** met with fifth and sixth graders at Engadine Consolidated Schools. The COs answered questions the students had and explained the job duties a conservation officer has in the State of Michigan.
- **COs Colton Gelin, Calvin Smith, and Justin Vinson** patrolled Mackinac Island on snowmobiles. The COs contacted numerous snowmobilers regarding trail permit issues, registration violations, and fishing without a license. Law enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Colton Gelin** was on patrol in Mackinac County when he observed two snowmobiles without trail permits or registration. CO Gelin stopped the snowmobilers who explained they had custom registration stickers coming and did not want to put the registration stickers they had on their snowmobiles. The snowmobilers also failed to attach their trail permits to their snowmobiles. Law enforcement action was taken.
- **Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon** was headed to a training session in Marquette when near the Alger/Marquette County line he came upon an MSP trooper beginning Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) on a female that he made a traffic stop on. Sgt. Fitzgibbon immediately pulled over to assist the trooper as he was administering CPR. Based on their training and experience, the officers suspected it to be related to a narcotic overdose. The trooper administered Narcan, continued CPR, and by the time paramedics arrived and began their transport the victim had a pulse and was breathing on her own. It is believed she will likely survive.

District 2 Biweekly Report 3/10/2019 – 3/23/2019

- **CO Mark Zitnik** attended a wild game dinner at the Munising Baptist Church. The CO answered questions regarding various recreation laws and questions on the county's deer herd health from the public.
- **Cpl. Kevin Postma and CO Calvin Smith** responded to the scene of an abduction involving a five-year old boy. The child was taken from his residence where several occupants of the residence were bound with duct tape. Shortly after the COs arrived on scene, the suspect's vehicle was found in the driveway of a residence located five miles away on the Lake Superior shoreline of Whitefish Bay. The COs assisted deputies from the Chippewa County Sheriff's Office and MSP troopers with setting up a perimeter on the house. Eventually contact was made with the homeowner and it was determined that the suspects and child were not there. Two fresh sets of foot tracks, along with impressions of what appeared to be that of a sled, were observed traveling east out onto Whitefish Bay. The COs quickly off-loaded their patrol snowmobiles and began to follow the tracks out onto Whitefish Bay. Cpl. Postma picked up Deputy Mitchell who had already started out on foot in pursuit of the suspects. The officers followed the tracks for three to four miles before locating the suspects and taking them into custody without incident. The child, who the suspects were pulling in a sled, was found to be in good health and was transported to the staging area on shore. The suspects were ultimately lodged on numerous felony charges.
- **COs Steve Butzin, Chris Lynch, PCO Mike Oleson, and DEGLE Detective Trey Luce** investigated a complaint of several campers burning on Little Bay de Noc. When the COs arrived at the location, they located two campers that had been completely burnt. The COs contacted the owner of the trailer at the scene and he admitted to setting the campers on fire. The campers had frozen into the ice over the winter and he felt it would be easier to burn them rather than attempt to get them out of the ice. The incident is under investigation and could result in the subject facing several charges, along with having to remove all the debris that was left behind.
- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint of an individual hunting deer during firearm deer season without a license. After several months of investigation, **COs Butzin, Chris Lynch, and PCO Mike Oleson** interviewed the individual at his residence in Garden Township. A warrant request has been submitted to the Delta County Prosecutor's Office for illegal take of a 9-point deer, illegal take of an 8-point deer, two counts of borrowing the kill tag of another, and possession of a walleye out of season.
- While patrolling Little Bay de Noc, **CO Steve Butzin** observed a large plume of black smoke coming from a residence located near the Whitefish River. When CO Butzin arrived on scene, he observed an individual burning drywall, a fiberglass shower, and siding. A citation was issued to the individual for open burning of prohibited materials and the fire department extinguished the debris pile.

- While patrolling Little Bay de Noc, **CO Steve Butzin** observed an ice shanty that had several fish lying on the ice outside of it. When CO Butzin knocked on the shanty and announced himself there was no reply. CO Butzin left and observed the shanty from a short distance away, after about 10 minutes the anglers returned to the shanty. CO Butzin immediately contacted them when they opened the door of the shanty, several unattended lines were observed. A citation was issued to the anglers for fishing with lines that were not in their immediate control.
- **COs Colton Gelinas and Calvin Smith** were on snowmobile patrol in Luce County and observed a snowmobile operating on a state trail without a trail permit. A stop was initiated. The driver of the snowmobile stated that he has two different snowmobiles and has one trail permit between the two. The driver stated that he forgot to get the trail permit from the other snowmobile. A citation was issued to the driver for failure to attach trail permit.
- Following a meat processor's inspection, **CO Chris Lynch and PCO Michael Olesen** contacted two individuals whose paperwork didn't quite add up. After a short interview with the subjects, it was found that one of the individuals took a deer without a license and had also taken a deer the previous year without a license. A report is being presented to the Delta County Prosecutor's Office for review.
- **CO Chris Lynch** recently had a case adjudicated in court where a hunter illegally took an 8-point deer and was sentenced to five days in jail, ordered to pay \$5,325 in fines and restitution, and his hunting privileges were revoked for six years.
- While on snowmobile patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn** and USFS Officer Dave Tembruell were checking snowmobiles at a busy trail crossing. While checking a large group of snowmobiles, the officers noticed a snowmobile that appeared to be avoiding them. After a quick check of the snowmobile, it was determined that it did not have a valid trail permit or registration attached. When the operator was asked where his trail permit and registration were, he stated that everything must have blown off. After a quick check in the computer, it was determined that the snowmobile was expired for almost a year. A citation was issued for the expired registration.

Forest Resources Division: Jeff Stampfly, Eastern UP Supervisor

- Field work on the 2021 year of entry inventory is ongoing. 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.
- There are currently about 20 active sales in the eastern UP (EUP). Loggers were able to harvest some low ground timber sales this winter due to favorable weather. Loggers are wrapping up winter work and moving to spring break up sales with Class A road access. Load limit restrictions are now in effect statewide.
- All recently offered sales in the EUP were sold. Markets are average to poor, with higher interest in sales with good access.
- Hiawatha National Forest Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) timber sales for 2019 will include approximately 1,300 acres. Planning has started on projects for 2020 GNA work.
- In recent EUP personnel actions, a new forest technician was hired in Newberry and will start next month.
- Public Act 288 (PA 288) of 2016 required the DNR to inventory and map all state forest roads by the end of 2018. The mapping and inventory process is an ongoing effort, with reviews being completed on the ground by DNR staff as well as an in-depth review of public comments each year. For more information and maps, see www.michigan.gov/forestroroads.
- Fire qualified staff are getting ready for the upcoming fire season by attending tactics and refresher trainings. Volunteer fire departments also received refresher training. Fire equipment is being taken out of storage and prepped for use.
- Other recent trainings include GIS, new employee fire and forestry orientation, snowmobile and chainsaw training.
- Fire staff will soon be sent to assist in prescribed burning efforts that will be conducted on state land in the lower peninsula. This is a great chance for staff to gain experience and accomplish habitat objectives.

- Staff are conducting general maintenance repairs to cultivation equipment to prepare it for the upcoming season. Estimated EUP cultivation work for this year includes:
 - 2,148 acres of planting with approximately 1,896,970 seedlings.
 - 597 acres of trenching using DNR staff.
 - 1,465 acres of scarification, mainly through contract.
- Snowmobile season is winding down, and grooming operations have ceased due to poor snow conditions. Snowmobile counters averaged 146 sleds/day at the tunnel under I-75 near the Sault, and 161 sleds/day at Ranger Road near Raco for the season.
- Improvements/repairs will be made to some EUP buildings this year. Road and bridge project work is also being prepared. Contracts for crossings at Culhane and Murphy Creeks have been awarded.
- Land use permits applications were received and reviewed for invasive species removal, raptor banding and ROW maintenance occurring on state land.

Eastern UP Fisheries Division

Field Units (Cory Kovacs, Lake Superior Management Unit)

- Management staff attended the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission-Lakes Meeting in Ypsilanti in March. Representatives from across the Great Lakes discussed trends in lake trout, salmonids, sea lamprey, and forage species. Fisheries Community Objectives were all addressed for each of the upper Great Lakes.
- Management staff is working on data analysis and report writing for the 2018 sampling season. This has been made a priority for the division as many units are working to get caught up on these items.
- Management staff participated in the Lake Superior Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee meeting April 4. Topics included a summary of the lake trout satellite tag project, Law Enforcement Division updates, lake trout regulations, and 2019 regulation proposals.
- Management staff attended the Warmwater Resources Steering Committee meeting in Lansing in March. Topics of discussion were the 5 fish over 12 inches yellow perch regulation, muskellunge statewide angler survey results, muskellunge harvest registration update, and aquatic vegetation treatments in lakes.
- Field staff participated in a macroinvertebrate training at LSSU. This training was put on by the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.
- Field staff updated their First Aid/CPR certifications. These certifications are good for 2 years.
- Field staff planning spring field season. First of the list of priorities is a walleye population estimate on Gulliver Lake just east of Manistique.
- Fisheries Division participated in the annual UP Boat, Sport & Recreation Show at the Superior Dome in Marquette on March 30th.
- Muskellunge and Lake Sturgeon Harvest Registration system update:
 - As of March 16, 2019, the final total of registered harvested muskellunge was **28**.
 - The final count for Lake Sturgeon harvested for 2018-19 was **18**.
- Spring public meeting dates for Fisheries Division regulation proposals (Conversation and Coffee meetings). For more information please contact Newberry Customer Service Center.
 - Newberry: April 2, 2019
 - Munising: April 4, 2019
 - Sault Ste. Marie: April 16, 2019
- On April 29, the Lake Superior Fisheries Workshop will be held in Houghton at the Great Lakes Research Center at Michigan Tech University. Information to be shared are fish population data, changes in angler demographics, Buffalo Reef updates, sea lamprey population status, and more. This workshop is intended for the public and geared to gather feedback and answer questions. For more information see the attached flyer!

State Fish Hatcheries (Jan VanAmberg, Hatchery Manager)

Thompson State Fish Hatchery

Fish Culture:

- Prebid meeting for the Thompson capital outlay project drew 39 contactors representing 27 companies. A record turnout for a DTMB project in the UP. General contractors (10-12) and subcontractors sent representatives from all over the UP, NLP and northern Wisconsin.
- Continuing discussions with DEQ regarding requirements for formaldehyde and chlorine testing following treatments.
- Steelhead growth still behind recent years averages but delayed planting expected due to hard winter will help with size.
- MSU conducted fish health inspection. Biosecurity and sanitation given high marks by Tom Loch.
- Chinook inventoried and number provided to ASRA for allocations and mass marking. Expect to be short of rearing assignment for Chinook although statewide we expect to be close to requested numbers. Expect to meet rearing assignment for steelhead. Received requests for walleye fry- 7 million.

Maintenance:

- Hours spent moving snow well above average years. Running out of places to pile it up.
- Radio pager antennae taken out by snow sliding off roof replaced and operational. Gutter and vent piping also destroyed sliding snow. Modifications to antennae bracket were made.
- Began replacement of perimeter lighting to LED as recommended in 2018 Energy Audit.
- Purchased and received new surge protection device taken out by lightning.

Marquette State Fish Hatchery

Fish Culture:

- Technicians completed vaccinations on the brook trout.
- All signs of EEDV in the production lake trout are gone. Awaiting results of fish health exam.
- Completed first fish stocking event of the season- Mirror Lake in the Porcupine Mt's Wilderness Area. Management unit staff assisted hatchery staff by transporting 3,000 yearling splake into the area by snowmobile.
- Marquette received draft NPDES permit from DEQ containing same monitoring requirements (generally) that all recent permits have. Draft permit requires waste characterization study for formaldehyde, Chlorine, and weekly sampling for total suspended solids and phosphorus.

Maintenance:

- Changed out UV bulbs for brood stock, received new PO for replacement bulbs for next exchange (2021).

Marquette Fisheries Research Station (Drs. Troy Zorn & Ed Baker)

- Research staff are working on summarizing 2018 field data, writing reports, and are preparing for the upcoming field season.
- The Research Vessel Lake Char is currently in winter storage, and this summer this craft will be sampling lake trout at Lake Superior's Big Reef (north of Munising) and Isle Royale, as well as other dedicated index stations.

Parks & Recreation Division: Eric Cowing, Eastern Supervisor

Tahquamenon Falls State Park & Newberry Field Office

- Upper Falls Water/Sewer Study: Ongoing.
- Lower Falls Boat Concession/Island Redevelopment Project: Working on fine tuning the 100% design plans. The project is expected to be advertised for construction bids on 4/15.
- Lower Falls Concession Store Remodel/Replacement Project: Sanders & Czapski has been selected as the professional services consultant. We are anticipating the kick off meeting will take place in April.
- Lower Falls Road Seep Project: Working on the 90% design.
- County Line Boating Access Site (BAS) & Milakokia Lake BAS Redevelopment Projects: The pre-bid sight visit for the design consultants is on May 15.
- Whitefish Point Harbor Redevelopment Study: Ongoing. The project team will be meeting with key stakeholders this week.
- We will be conducting interviews for the vacant full-time ranger position in late April.

- Seasonal ranger staff have all been recalled for the season.
- Seasonal workers will start in May.
- The Newberry Field Office supervisor position remains vacant, pending civil service clarification.

Muskallonge Lake State Park

- Staff have begun remodeling the west toilet/shower building. Renovations include new tile and fixtures in the showers, new flooring, partitions and sinks in the men's bathroom.
- Still waiting for the snow to melt for contractors to begin the campground electrical upgrades.
- Rangers Freeborn and Gribbell have been recalled. Interviews are being conducted for seasonal summer staff.

Indian Lake/Palms Book State Parks

- The headquarters roofing project will be completed this week weather permitting.
- All four of our seasonal rangers were recalled for the season.
- Palms Book attendance is running about normal for this time of year.

Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island

- Detour Village BAS breakwall project is at 90% design.
- Lime Island Harbor Upgrade Project: Consultant will need to do soil borings in spring.
- Brimley toilet and shower building replacement had kick-off meeting with DTMB.
- Hiring is complete for Brimley with a dozen applications received to fill 3 positions. Detour State Harbor is still accepting applications.
- Algonquin pathway ski season has come to an end...still a couple feet of snow on the ground, but not groomable due to warmer temperatures.
- All other facilities remain closed for the season. Still a lot of snow in Brimley State Park.
- Brimley staff has been performing equipment maintenance and shoveled all park building roofs.
- Lime Island management plan is moving towards completion. The fourth meeting was held in January with the public meeting to be held in the spring.
- Brimley staff has been working on updating unit safety plans/procedures and lining up staff projects for the year.

Straits State Park & Mackinac Island Harbor

- A consultant was hired for Father Marquette to look into revitalizing and rebuilding the park. A kickoff meeting was held with some brainstorming and ideas on what would work.
- Getting closer to phase 500 design of toilet shower comfort station for Mackinac Island Harbor.
- Funding available to hire consultant to design 2 toilet shower buildings for Straits.
- In the process of trying to hire summer staff. This proves to be more difficult each year as the private sector pays higher wages.
- Winter family fun day was held in March with good turn-out.
- Events for this coming summer have been set.
- Straits is open to hikers, snowshoers and skiers and is very busy when the weather is good. Not too many out when the temperatures were below zero. Numbers of hikers and skiers are up this year.
- The park was able to pick up a ski trail groomer to tow behind our snowmobile. This will be a great addition for next winter.

Newberry Field Office

- This winter brought more snow than normal, so we were removing quite a lot. Replaced lighting in the heated shop with LED and what a difference it made. Have two out of eight vault toilets built with three more framed in. We have yet to be able to get at a lot of our campgrounds and access sites to assess winter damage. We do expect quite a bunch of downed trees and brush with the ice storms and heavy snow.
- We had Ranger William McAlpine start back from his seasonal layoff on March 25th.
- The weather has not been good as one day we will have sunshine and the next snow. We hope a warming trend starts soon so we can get to inspections.
- Water samples at Milikokia Lake State Campground have been good since a bad sample in October of 2018. We are still on a monthly sample for one year.

- Hope things as far as weather starts to come around so we can get inspections and any safety issues at our campgrounds and access site fixed.

Trails Section Unit Report – East UP

Rail-Trail Projects

- Doty Bridge on the Coalwood grade by Wetmore updated estimate for construction is \$800,000. Engineers updated the plans, planning to start bidding out in mid-May, hope to complete construction by November 15th.

Snowmobile Trail Updates

- Grooming ended March 31. All trails are deteriorating, swamps are thawing out and dirt spots are showing up. Some areas still have good base. Private property permissions are over until December 1. Great off trail riding, freezing nights have made some good crusts.
- 18 Fatalities so far this year, 8 on trails, 7 on lakes, 4 roads.

ORV Trail Updates

- Trail Proposal for ORV Route from Moran to Detour has been approved. Les Cheneaux Snowmobile Club is anxious to get it signed this spring.
- ORV Grant Sponsor Preseason Maintenance meetings are soon.
- ORV trail questions are ramping up.
- Law Titling of Side x Sides

Equestrian Trail Projects: No activity

Pathway Projects

- Peek-a-Boo Hill Mountain Bike Trail: Met with the Clark Township supervisor and the planning committee. Need to apply for grants to fund construction. First application for engineering grant.

Event/Use Permits: None

General

- Busy with public questions on where to go.
- Working to get trail maintenance projects out to bid.
- Sunken Lakes Bridges (2) are planned for construction this summer.