



## Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

**Date of Production: February 2019**

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

### **Public Meetings**

February 14	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Detroit
February 19	Michigan Iron Industry Museum Advisory Board, Negaunee, 3:00pm
February 20	Eastern UP Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting, LMAS Health Dept–Newberry, 6:00pm
February 25	Public Hearing for Proposed Marquette County Shooting Range at Sands Township Planning Commission Meeting, Sands Township Hall, 6:30pm
February 28	Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup (of the Michigan Trails Advisory Council), Sault Ste. Marie, 10am
March 12	UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, DNR Crystal Falls Office, 6:00pm Central
March 13	UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, DNR Marquette Office, 6:00pm
March 14	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Bellaire
March 21	Western UP Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting, Bay College West–Iron Mountain, 5:00pm Central

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### **U.P. State Park, State Sponsored & Other Area Notable Activities**

February 15–18	UP 200 Sled Dog Races (beginning in Marquette)
February 16–17	Free Fishing Weekend
February 16	Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Tahqua Snowshoe Race
February 16	Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Guided Snowshoe Hike & Lantern Lit Snowshoe Trail
February 23	Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Guided Snowshoe Hike & Lantern Lit Snowshoe Trail
March 2	Straits State Park – Winter Family Fun Day
March 16	Van Riper State Park – Lantern–Lit Snowshoe

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### **Recent DNR Press Releases**

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

- DNR conservation officers rescue snowmobilers in Ontonagon County (2/11/19)
- DNR director to visit UP, attend sporting group meetings (2/6/19)
- Buffalo Reef Task Force releases preliminary draft alternatives analysis (2/5/19)
- UP Focus: DNR conservation officers at work (2/5/19)
- Yellow perch daily limit, DNR social platforms, state symbols (2/5/19)
- Showcasing the DNR: Conservation officers heed calls for help during wintry weather (2/4/19)
- DNR Get Involved: State park volunteer opportunities, bird counts and more (2/1/19)
- Fall fish stocking, updated CWD website, Great Backyard Bird Count (1/29/19)
- UP Trappers Association offers kids workshop in Menominee County (1/25/19)
- Showcasing the DNR: Celebrating statehood: Michigan's state symbols (1/24/19)
- Your official invitation to celebrate 100 years of state parks (1/23/19)
- DNR conducts snowmobile patrols during weekend of deadly crashes (1/22/19)
- DNR conducts snowmobile sound and alcohol patrols in western UP (1/19/19)

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## 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  
Recreation Passport Grant  
Aquatic Habitat Grant  
Michigan Invasive Species Grant  
Wildlife Habitat Grant  
U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant

Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, [carlockm@michigan.gov](mailto:carlockm@michigan.gov)  
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## Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator Update – Stacy Haughey

### ***Eichinger draws on deep outdoor tradition in new role as DNR director***

*Michigan DNR's 21st director youngest to hold the post*

**By JOHN PEPIN**  
**Michigan Department of Natural Resources**

As a boy, Dan Eichinger could be found with a spinning rod in hand, haunting the tree-lined banks of the Middle Branch River, trying to avoid the stream's suckers in favor of a tug on his line from a big brown trout.

Like lots of good Michigan folks, he loves the woods and water – they're in his blood.

Eichinger, 38, grew up hunting deer in that same part of Osceola County near Marion, a mid-Michigan village of about 850 people, situated along Highway 66 – about 10 miles north of where the Middle Branch flows into the Muskegon River.

Born in Cadillac, raised in Holland, Eichinger's paternal lineage is steeped in natural resources conservation advocacy and appreciation.

"My grandfather was Ryan Bontekoe. He was a charter member of the Pigeon River Advisory Council and served on that group until he passed away in 1994," Eichinger said. "So, he was involved from the early 1970s to the mid-1990s."

Bontekoe was the president of Michigan United Conservation Clubs in 1977. Not quite a decade later, that same post was held by Eichinger's father, John.

"Later in his career, my dad was the executive director of Safari Club International and he was president/CEO of the Ruffed Grouse Society until his retirement last June," Eichinger said.

Since those boyhood days in Osceola County, where he got hooked on fishing and hunting, Eichinger has followed the boot prints of his father and grandfather down a path to devoted service and support of numerous conservation and natural resources endeavors.

He was schooled at Michigan State and Central Michigan universities, earning a bachelor's degree in political theory and constitutional democracy and master's degrees in fisheries and wildlife and public administration.

Eichinger worked as membership director for MUCC, after a stint there as an intern during college. From 2004 to 2007, he was a conservation and natural resources policy advisor to Lt. Gov. John Cherry during the Jennifer Granholm administration.

After that, he was hired by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

"From 2007 to 2009, I served as legislative liaison, working under then-Director Becky Humphries," he said.



His work then included aiding passage of legislation creating Michigan's Recreation Passport to help fund state parks. The Passport replaced vehicle windshield stickers for park entry.

"I then joined the Wildlife Division and worked with Russ Mason as assistant to the chief," Eichinger said.

He would help establish the DNR Wildlife Division's first Policy and Regulations Unit, later serving as its supervisor.

In 2012, Eichinger left the DNR for an administrator's job at Central Michigan University, which would bring him closer to his home and family.

Two years later, he returned to MUCC to become executive director – continuing his family's tradition of holding top-level positions with the country's most effective state-based conservation organization.

After the November 2018 election, Eichinger said speculation began about who might serve in various positions in the new administration of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Eichinger was urged by several people to put his name forward, given his experience and situational awareness of state government. Weeks later, he said he was fortunate to find himself on a short list of finalists for the DNR director's position.

He remembers getting the call and the nod as a "great Christmas present."

"I was still in my PJs on a Sunday morning when I found out," Eichinger said. "It was a little before Christmas when I was talking to the governor."

His first day on the job was Jan. 2. Eichinger is the DNR's 21st director, standing on the shoulders of giants with names like Hoffmaster and MacMullan.

"It's a huge responsibility, only outweighed by the honor of doing the work," Eichinger said. "This isn't just work that I do, this is how I live my life."

Eichinger's home is in western Isabella County, where he lives with his wife and the couple's 8-year-old son and 5-year-old daughter. There, they hunt ruffed grouse and American woodcock. They also enjoy camping and fishing for bluegill.

A waterfowl shooter, he is also a birder. He said he has studied ornithology and has always been interested in bird biology.

"I am not a life-lister, but usually travel with my Audubon guide so that we can identify the different birds we find on our adventures," he said.

Eichinger sent a message to DNR employees soon after his appointment.

"Over the coming weeks, I look forward to reconnecting with many of you, meeting those I don't know and learning about how we can advance new priorities, celebrate and maximize our current success, and continually strive toward personal and professional growth and development," he wrote. "As employees of the DNR, we are fortunate to wake up every day to work on things that matter to so many people."

Looking ahead, Eichinger said he has a few top-drawer DNR priorities, including continuing to battle fish and wildlife diseases – with the scourge of chronic wasting disease at the spearpoint of those efforts.

Eichinger will insist Michigan remain a leader in preventing invasive bighead and silver carp from entering the Great Lakes, while coordinating state and federal action to curb greater grass carp proliferation in Lake Erie.

He also plans to continue fighting an entire suite of forest resource pests and diseases, which can negatively affect everything from commerce and ecology to recreation and employment.

Eichinger said the DNR's year-long park centennial celebration in 2019 reminds us of the century-old heritage of state park development across Michigan. The downside of that benchmark is a reminder that Michigan has a 100-year-old park system with a bulging backlog of unfunded park maintenance and improvement projects.

"I'm concerned that at some point that's going to crush the park system," he said.

With a declining user base of hunting and fishing license buyers, Eichinger said the DNR needs to challenge itself to find solutions to meeting funding needs heading into the future.

In the long term, he said the department needs to continue its work to recruit, retain and reactivate declining numbers of hunters and anglers, reframing the conversation about those activities in rural communities, while remaining relevant.

"In the short-term, we've got to change those trend lines now," Eichinger said.

To do that, he wants to focus on enhanced efforts to make Michigan more of a destination state. Eichinger pointed to a recently released study commissioned by MUCC that showed the statewide economic impacts from hunting and fishing license purchases support 171,000 jobs and generate \$11.2 billion annually.

Eichinger suggested making those data available to a wider nationwide audience would increase interest in greater development of Michigan's recreation economy prospects.

During his first month on the job, Eichinger has been working to reacquaint himself with the DNR, listening to constituents and partner groups, while developing his priorities for the agency moving forward.

"The biggest impression so far is the quality of people we have working here," he said. Eichinger said DNR personnel see their jobs as "mission-based work" they believe in because, like him, they are invested in natural resources and recreation activities in their own daily lives. Eichinger will be meeting DNR staffers face-to-face over the next few weeks through a series of all-employee staff meetings being held from Bellaire to Sault Ste. Marie.

Meanwhile, amid the hectic pace of his new job, Eichinger still plans to find time to return to nature himself, with his family and his hunting dog.

He said Beaver Island has become one of his favorite places on the planet. He also remains rooted in destinations he enjoyed in his younger days, including the Lake Michigan shore near Holland and the Pigeon River Country in the heart of the Lower Peninsula.

The forests, lakes, streams and elk there within the Pigeon's 104,000 acres remind him of his grandfather and make him feel very connected to his family.

From time to time, his mind drifts back to those beautiful blueberry days down around Marion where he spent those early formative years exploring the Middle Branch River in pursuit of German browns.

"I trout fish now, mostly with a fly rod," he said. "But I still spin quite a bit, and that is how I first started fishing."

## *Western UPCAC Update*

Western UP Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting – January 16 in Escanaba

- Proposed Marquette County Shooting Range Update
- UP Wildlife Habitat Workgroup Update
- Snowmobiles/Loud Exhausts
- US Senate Bill 3644 (Peters) – CWD Transmission in Cervidae Study Act
- Chronic Wasting Disease & UP CWD Taskforce Updates
- Deer Season Recap
- Committee Reports & Resolutions (Fisheries, Wildlife Trails/Rec/Law)
  - *The WUPCAC approved unanimously a resolution regarding the implementation of a no size limit on muskellunge and northern pike on the Paint River.*
- Pubic Comments (Registered): Friends of the Huron Mountains re: Summit Lake Wind Farm and Dean Dallavalle re: Proposed Youth Bear Hunt
  - *The WUPCAC approved by majority vote a proposed youth bear hunt for a two-year trail period.*

The next WUPCAC meeting will be held Thursday, March 21 in Iron Mountain.

## *February 2019 NRC Meeting Summary – John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer*

The Natural Resources Commission met in Lansing today. Major actions:

- Director Dan Eichinger approved an inventory of state forest roads in the Northern Lower Peninsula and designation of those roads as opened or closed, fulfilling requirements of Public Act 288.
- Director Eichinger also approved three land transactions. Details of those transactions can be found linked in the NRC agenda online.

Following are proceedings from NRC committee meetings.

### **State Parks Advisory Committee**

Parks Chief Ron Olson updated the commission on the Sargent Sands acquisition at Ludington State Park. In December, the department completed the acquisition of one hundred acres of sand dunes, wetlands and forests from Sargent Sands Minerals-Ludington, LLC. The land will become part of Ludington State Park, permanently preserving it for public recreation. The \$17 million for the purchase came from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Nature Conservancy, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and other sources.

Ron also reviewed other items from December 2018 supplemental legislation that provided funding for parks. These included:

- \$2 million in Park Improvement Funds for preventative maintenance projects, energy conservation, equipment replacement, radio replacement, contract maintenance, consulting services and alternative lodging
- \$5 million in General Fund for Iron Belle Trail challenge grants
- \$3 million in General Fund for White Pine Trail paving
- \$1.5 million in General Fund for Grand Haven Park pavilion renovation

Jason Fleming of Parks and Recreation and Ami Van Antwerp of Marketing and Outreach walked the committee through the features of the DNR's State Parks Centennial website.

Ron also reviewed the Parks and Recreation Division goals for 2019:

- Parks, waterways and trails infrastructure
- Non-motorized trail funding
- Staffing and hiring a diversified workforce
- Invasive Species
- Relevancy

### **Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries**

Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter reviewed the 2019 Black Lake Sturgeon season, the only Michigan fishing season in which you can spear sturgeon, and likely the shortest recreational fishing season in the world. Over 400 registered anglers participated in the event, held on Feb. 2. The target of six fish was attained. The season closed after 78 minutes. For the first time this year anglers were notified by text of the fast-paced progress of the season, including notification of when the season closed, helping to prevent over-harvest.

Next, Jim talked about Fisheries Order 200.19, which moved through the commission in December. The normal daily catch limit for brook trout on Upper Peninsula streams is five fish. However, the Natural Resources Commission has allowed for a 10-fish limit on select U.P. streams to provide for greater angler opportunity. At its November 2018 meeting, the Commission took up a proposal to add seven additional streams to this list of waters where the more liberal limit applies. After discussion, the commission decided it did not want those seven streams added to proposed Fish Order 200. Unfortunately, when DNR staff updated FO 200 to reflect this change, staff inadvertently removed from the order 33 existing streams where the 10 brook trout limit applies. At the December 2018 NRC meeting, the Commission took action on this incorrectly updated order.

Today, the commission asked the department to bring forward a revised order to reinstate the original 33 streams with a 10-brook trout daily possession limit in the Upper Peninsula. The revised order would also reduce the Lake Trout daily possession limit in Lake Huron – the management unit known as MH-2 -- from a four Lake Trout daily possession limit to three. The revised order will be before the commission for information in March.

Wildlife Chief Russ Mason provided an update on \$180,000 included in a supplemental appropriation to purchase game farm pheasants for release in State Game Areas. The purpose of this effort is to improve hunting opportunity and increase the recruitment, retention and reactivation of small game hunters.

Barb Avers of Wildlife reviewed proposed regulations for 2019-2020 migratory bird hunting seasons. The department is recommending few changes from current regulations, although the daily possession limit for Pintails would be reduced from two to one under the department's recommendations.

Ashley Autenrieth of Wildlife presented bear regulation recommendations for 2019-2020. Population modeling and other indicators suggest the number of bears in the Northern Lower Peninsula is increasing. The department's goal is to stabilize the population trend in the Northern Lower Peninsula within two to four years. In the Northern Lower Peninsula the proposed harvest goal would increase by 45 bears (harvest goal of 400). Licenses would increase by 115 (total licenses 1,070).

The Upper Peninsula bear population is increasing, Ashley said. To meet department management objectives, the goal is to increase the U.P. bear population slightly for the next two years. In the U.P. the recommended harvest goal would go down 20 bears (harvest goal of 1,180). Licenses would decrease by 295 (total licenses 6,010).

Ashley identified five other department-proposed changes to bear regulations:

- Eliminate the Baldwin North Bear Management Unit to focus on ongoing bear conflicts across the entire Baldwin Unit.
- Institute concurrent season openers in the Upper Peninsula so all U.P. bear seasons open the Wednesday before the second Saturday in September.
- Institute concurrent season openers in the Northern Lower Peninsula so all Northern Lower Peninsula bear seasons commence the Sunday following the second Saturday in September.
- Limit the maximum hole diameter for barrels used on private land to one inch to lessen the chance of injury to bears and limit the amount of bait that can be dispersed.
- Allow non-residents to train dogs in the Amasa, Bergland and Carney Bear Management Units to provide additional recreational opportunity for nonresidents.

The department also put before the commission for consideration the possibility of using barrels for baiting of bears on public lands. The commission subsequently adopted a resolution amending the proposed bear regulations to allow for the use of barrels for baiting bears only on state-managed public lands. The regulations would be subject to conditions defined on page 7 of the bear regulation memo submitted to the NRC and would sunset after two years. Bear regulations will be before the commission for action at its March meeting.

### **Committee of the Whole**

Wildlife Chief Russ Mason recognized this year's winners of the Pure Michigan Hunt:

Greg Burks of White Lake (Oakland County), Jesse Jubb of Bath (Clinton County) and John Murphy of Lapeer (Lapeer County) each won an array of licenses and more than \$4,000 worth of hunting gear.

This year the first names of the winners first initially announced during a Facebook live event Jan. 18. Russ made a follow-up call to each of the winners, congratulating them on this opportunity.

Each Pure Michigan Hunt winner receives elk, bear, spring and fall turkey, and antlerless deer licenses and a base license to be used in 2019. In addition, the winners – along with three hunting companions each – will get first pick for a reserved hunt at any of Michigan's premier managed waterfowl hunt areas.

Parks and Recreation Chief Ron Olson provided a brief update from his division. Recreation Passport sales are up 5.9 percent over last year for December. Lodging nights at state parks are about equal to last year, and harbor night reservations are up more than 16 percent. ORV trail passes are up 8.5 percent and snowmobile permits are down 34 percent. Parks has launched a process of infrastructure assessment at 80 harbors of refuge on the Great Lakes and 1,300 boating access sites. Ron also reported that the state parks system will celebrate its centennial May 18 at Interlochen State Park. It is hoped the governor can be there.

Kelly Carter of Wildlife presented the just-completed Fiscal Year 2018 Wildlife Division Annual Report. As in the past, the report is structured around the division's Strategic Plan. New this year are sections on the division's work within its regions, sections and units, as well as a special report on chronic wasting disease.

Gary Whelan of Fisheries presented a report on fish disease. The public typically doesn't realize disease is affecting fish population until dead fish show up on the surface. But there's a lot going on beneath the surface, Gary said. There are thousands of pathogens that can affect fish, many species specific. Biologists can sometimes disrupt this chain of infection through fish stocking, Gary said.

Common viruses affecting fish populations are Largemouth Bass virus, Epizootic Epitheliotropic Disease virus and Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia virus. However, the biggest killers of fish are bacteria, such as Flavobacteria and Aeromonids. Anglers can help prevent transmission of these diseases through many of the same actions that prevent movement of invasive species, including not moving fish or water between lakes, reducing fishing during periods of stress on fish, not holding fish for long periods in live wells and reporting mortalities of over 25 fish through [Michigan.gov/eyesinthefield](http://Michigan.gov/eyesinthefield).

Marketing and Outreach Chief Kristin Phillips detailed continued communications around CWD, including a "Your Actions Matter" campaign aimed at wildlife enthusiasts, a new design for the CWD website and a recent Facebook live event geared toward those who recreationally feed wildlife. In the coming months, the department will engage stakeholders in the U.P. and Lower Peninsula through townhall meetings and other meetings upon request. Finally, the DNR will again develop a communication plan with hunters to help inform them about any new regulations for 2019.

Chad Steward of Wildlife updated the commission on the progress on commission resolutions related to deer.

- The department is in the process of surveying hunters in the thumb area on the possibility of an Antler Point Restriction regulation. A second survey will be mailed out next week.
- The department is in the process of reviewing guidelines for Antler Point Restrictions, as requested by the commission.
- The department is designing an experiment with Antler Point Restrictions in Newaygo, Mecosta, Montcalm, Kent and Ionia counties, where we know CWD to exist. The experiment should be able to provide estimates on deer abundance, sex and age ratio changes, deer harvest, hunter numbers and hunter perceptions of APRs. The experiment will not be able to provide estimates on prevalence and spread of CWD, Chad said. A decision is expected in July on moving forward with the experiment.

Director Eichinger introduced the department's new legislative liaison, Craig Brunet. Craig grew up in the Upper Peninsula, graduating from L'Anse High School. He received his Bachelor of Science in Political Science and his Master of Public Administration from Northern Michigan University. Professionally, Craig worked for the Michigan House of Representatives from 2005 to 2017 for three consecutive legislators serving the 109<sup>th</sup> State House District. Last November, he was hired as legislative and policy analyst for the Department of Technology, Management and Budget. Immediately before coming to the DNR, Craig served as DTMB's acting legislative liaison.

Trevor VanDyke, director of the Office of Legislative and Legal Affairs, presented a legislative update below.

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

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE 2019-09 – Equal Opportunity**

Executive Directive 2019-09 seeks to assure equal opportunity in state employment, contracting and grant and loan programs, and the provision of state services. Executive Directive 2019-09 strengthens non-discrimination protections in four important ways by:

1. Clarifying that employment protections cover all state employees, including classified and unclassified employees.
2. Requiring all recipients of state contracts, grants and loans to extend protections to their employees.
3. Prohibiting discrimination in state services.
4. Extending prohibitions on discrimination to include discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression – which will now be consistent with the action taken by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission in May 2018.

Under this directive, each director of a principal state department and head of an autonomous agency subject to supervision by the Governor must designate an individual within the department or agency as an Equity and Inclusion Officer to educate employees about the directive and ensure compliance. Each Equity and Inclusion Officer will receive complaints about noncompliance and make recommendations on how to remedy the issue to the department director or agency head and will report to the Governor's Chief Compliance Officer.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE 2019-11 – Encourage Transparency in State Government**

Executive Directive 2019-11 seeks to ensure state government is more open, transparent and accountable by establishing a general policy of the executive branch relating to public access to public records and open meetings. The directive sets forth specific requirements departments and agencies must comply with regarding the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act. In addition, each department or agency must designate an individual to serve as a Transparency Liaison who will report to the Governor's Chief Compliance Officer.

#### **SB 31-32 – Recreation Passport – Sen. Victory**

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and the Motor Vehicle Code to expand where Recreation Passports are needed. This legislation would require an individual at a State Trailhead and a State Forest Campground to have a Recreation Passport.

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

#### **SB 35 – Youth Hunt Requirements – Sen. VanderWall**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require a minor that is participating in the youth hunt weekend to take an antlerless deer before they can take an antlered deer.

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

### **SB 36 – Private Land Antlerless Deer Permits – Sen. VanderWall**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual who obtains a private-land antlerless deer license to transfer that license to an immediate family member.

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

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

## ***Division Updates***

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

- Customer Service Centers throughout the state were closed on January 30-31, 2019 due to the State of Emergency (extreme winter weather) directed by Governor Whitmer.
- The DNR's Becoming an Outdoor Woman program will be holding their annual Winter Workshop in Big Bay at the Bay Cliff Health Camp February 22-24, 2019, consisting of more than 20 classes to choose from.
- Two days twice a year, families and friends can enjoy one of Michigan's premiere outdoor activities, Michigan Fishing, for FREE! The 2019 Free Fishing Weekends are scheduled for this winter: **February 16 & 17** and this summer: June 8 & 9. All fishing license fees will be waived for two days. A **Recreation Passport** will NOT be required for entry into state parks and recreation areas during Free Fishing Weekend. Residents and out-of-state visitors may enjoy fishing on both inland and Great Lakes' waters for all species of fish. All fishing regulations will still apply
- Michelle Zellar has been appointed to the statewide Training Advisory Team representing the Finance and Operations Division and the Upper Peninsula.

### **FEBRUARY 2019**

- Feb 1 Deadline for Spring Turkey applications; Early Crow season opens
- Feb 1 Bobcat Hunting closes in Unit D, also close of U.P. bobcat trapping (Units A & B)
- Feb 2 Sturgeon spearing season on Black Lake, Cheboygan Co. – info (989) 732-3541
- Feb 11 Last day to register U.P. bobcats taken by trapping (Units A & B)
- Feb 16-17 Winter Free Fishing Weekend 2019
- Feb 24 Last day for ice shanties on Lake St. Clair (see p. 62)

### **MARCH 2019**

- Mar 1 New Year: Hunt/fish/orv licenses go on sale (most licenses expire 3/31)
- Mar 1 Can apply for 2019 Pure Michigan Hunt
- Mar 1 Hand netting opens (smelt, suckers, bowfin, carp, gar, shad, goldfish) – see p. 23
- Mar 1 Fox hunting closes, also Fox, Coyote, Muskrat, Mink trapping close.
- Mar 1 Bobcat Hunting closes (Units A, B, C), and Badger Trapping closes in Zone 3.
- Mar 1 Tree stands, and ladders must be removed from all public lands
- Mar 1 Last day for ice shanties in southern Lower Peninsula counties, see p. 62
- Mar 1 Pike and Walleye closes on the “Boundary Waters” (see p. 25)
- Mar 4 Drawing Results posted for Spring Turkey hunts
- Mar 11 Leftover Turkey & Hunt 234 on sale (unsuccessful applicants; OTC begins 3/18/19)
- Mar 11 Last day to register Bobcats taken by hunting (Units A, B, C) – see p. 54
- Mar 15 Last day for ice shanties in northern Lower Peninsula & Boundary Waters.
- Mar 15 Walleye, Pike, Muskie seasons close in most waters (see p. 12 for exceptions)
- Mar 15 Sturgeon season closes on Otsego Lk (Otsego) and Detroit R.

- Mar 20 Dip netting opens (smelt, suckers, bowfin, carp, gar, shad, goldfish)
- Mar 31 Hunt, Fish, and ORV Licenses expire (Fur Harvester is valid until April 30)
- Mar 31 Last day for ice shanties in the Upper Peninsula
- Mar 31 Squirrel, Early Crow, and Rabbit/Hare seasons close
- Mar 31 Last day of Raccoon trapping, and last day of Beaver/Otter trapping in Unit C

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

- **Deer Camp Survey:** Deer hunters from across the UP contribute data from the 16-day firearm season to provide DNR staff and hunters with feedback on the status of the deer herd and hunting satisfaction soon after the season ends. Data from over 450 camps (~ 1900 hunters) was collected and analyzed and will be reported back to the contributors in mid-winter. The deer camp survey results for 2019 will be released soon. Thanks to all the participants for their interest in deer and deer hunting.
- **Moose Population Survey:** The DNR conducted an aerial winter moose survey to estimate population size during January. Weather conditions were unfavorable for some of the survey period however, all of the plots were able to be completed during the allowable survey window and a population estimate will be produced later this winter. The estimate allows staff to determine the population trend which is key to determining the feasibility of a harvest season.
- **Habitat Planning:** The following projects are being planned for this spring by staff in the east U.P.
  - Habitat plantings including clover and/or mast producing shrubs and trees are being planned at the Halifax, Melstrand, and Drummond Island GEMS.
  - Red oak plantings are being planned in all units in the EUP and apple/crabapple are being planted in Newberry and Shingleton units.
  - Red osier dogwood plantings are being planned in the Sage River deer wintering complex in the Newberry unit.
  - Spring prescribed burns are being planned as opening maintenance on Drummond Island and the Munuscong potholes in the Sault Unit.
  - Opening maintenance work is being planned in deer wintering complexes in the Shingleton and Newberry Units.
- **2019 Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative (DHPI):** Applications for deer habitat improvement grants are sought through March 1<sup>st</sup>. Grants are awarded from \$2000 to \$15,000, for conducting deer habitat enhancement work on non-state-owned lands in the Upper Peninsula. Private landowners and governmental agencies are ineligible. Complete grant materials including the eligibility rules and application are available online ([www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants)) then follow the link to the *Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative*. DHPIP is in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, has awarded 82 projects totaling \$630,000 and contributing over \$450,000 in match.
- **Other:** Staff from Newberry and the Sault units are partnering with MSU Extension and Sea Grant to begin developing an EUP birding trail similar to others around the state. This driving route will cover new areas in Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce and Schoolcraft counties and will work toward connecting existing routes. New partners will be invited to participate at an upcoming meeting in late February.

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

- Field work on the 2021 YOE 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](http://www.michigan.gov/forestry). Click on “public input” to find the open house schedule and an interactive map.
- There are currently about 15 active sales in the EUP. Most logging activity is in low ground winter sales.
- Twenty-one timber sales were offered for bid in December and January in the EUP. Five of these sales went no-bid and will be re-offered. Markets are average to poor, with low interest in sales containing winter work.

- Of the five Hiawatha National Forest Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) sales that have been sold since this program started, two have been completed, two have been partially completed, and one has not been started yet. Currently there is no harvesting occurring on GNA sales on the Hiawatha National Forest.
- In recent EUP personnel actions, a new Fire Officer started in the Sault. In addition, interviews to fill the Forest Technician position in Newberry were recently held.
- Public Act 288 (PA 288) of 2016 required the DNR to inventory and map all state forest roads by the end of 2018. The decisions on state forest roads that will be opened or closed to ORV use in the UP are in effect as of January 1. There will be an annual review of roads. For more information and maps, see [www.michigan.gov/forestroads](http://www.michigan.gov/forestroads).
- Fire qualified staff are attending several fire trainings that are being offered this winter including fire investigations, section chief academy, wildland fire chainsaw, incident command systems I-300/I-400, initial attack incident command S-200, and intermediate fire behavior S-290. The fire fitness test will be held again this month for those who missed it earlier this winter.
- In addition, fire qualified staff are attending meetings such as the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact winter meeting, the Houghton County flooding Incident after-action review, and the upcoming spring tactics meeting and Incident Management meeting.
- Fire staff are busy checking snowmobile trails for signing compliance and working with trail grant sponsors on snowmobile trail issues. They have also responded to some snowmobile accidents. Staff have been busy working facility and road/bridge improvement projects that have been funded.

## **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: In the process of securing permits for the Pedestrian bridge to the island.
- Lower Falls Concession Store Remodel/Replacement project: The Pre-bid meeting will be held on 2/21/19.
- Lower Falls Road Seep project: The monitoring wells have been installed.
- County Line BAS & Milakokia Lake BAS redevelopment projects: We are still waiting for these projects to go out for design bid.
- Whitefish Point Harbor Redevelopment study: Ongoing, the Design consultant, Edgewater Resources is awaiting boater survey results.
- Newberry Field Office staff have been constructing Vault toilets indoors when they haven't been outside plowing snow.
- Eric Johnson has accepted the Lead Ranger position.
- Currently in the process of filling his old position, FT Ranger 8.
- Seasonal Ranger staff will be recalled from seasonal layoff in the coming weeks.
- The Newberry Field Office Supervisor position is still vacant.
- The first of 4 consecutive Saturday lantern lit ski events was held on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Many park visitors enjoyed great ski and snowshoe conditions
- Winter camping has picked up. We have seen 6 to 8 camps on most weekends with a high of 35 camps on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Muskallonge Lake State Park**

- Phase 2 campground electrical project has been bid and is in the process of awarding a contract. Construction will begin as soon as weather allows. Anticipated completion of this project is the end of June. This phase of construction will consist to campsite electrical upgrades in sections 1 and 3 along with some site improvements.
- All seasonal staff is on furlough until March.
- The Tahquamenon Country Sled Dog Race scheduled for January 5<sup>th</sup> had to be cancelled due to lack of snow and poor trail conditions.

### Indian Lake/Palms Book State Parks

- We have ¾ of the garage sided at Palms Book. We will finish it up as weather permits.
- We have a project planning meeting scheduled on 2/12. The projects include the toilet shower building replacement at Indian Lake South, parking lot improvements at Palms Book & a vehicle bridge replacement at Mead Creek State Forest Campground.
- Palms Book attendance is running about average with most of traffic being snowmobiles.

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

- Detour Village BAS break wall project getting close to 50% design.
- Lime Island Harbor upgrade project: Consultant will need to do soil borings in spring.
- In the very early stages of the Brimley State Park toilet building replacement planning/design.
- Starting to get some short-term worker applications for 2019 season. Will be contacting previous employees about interest to return this season this month
- Algonquin Pathway attendance: 587 skiers in January.
- All other facilities remain closed for the season.
- Brimley staff has been grooming Algonquin Pathway. Keeping the trail nicely groomed has been challenging due to the boom or bust snowfall, arctic temperatures and recent rain/freezing rain.
- Lime Island management plan is moving towards completion. The 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Fayette Historic State Park

- Townsite: Finished re-roof of building #18 with Cedar Shingles, and finished reconstruction of superintendent's house porch.



- Campground: Seasonal shutdown of toilet/shower building.
- Lantern Light XC Ski, Snowshoe, Hike held 1/26/19. 60 folks showed up for VERY cold temperatures and trails in excellent condition!

### Straits State Park & Mackinac Island Harbor

- Bids were accepted to hire a consultant to come up with an illustrative design master plan for Father Marquette park located within Straits. Bids were rated, and a consultant has been selected.
- Consultant has been hired and plans are at 50% for a new toilet shower comfort station at Mackinac Island Harbor with plans to break ground this coming fall.
- Funding is available to hire a consultant to design 2 new toilet shower buildings in the upper campground at Straits State Park to replace the existing aging buildings.
- Asbestos surveys have been completed and now the old managers residence at Straits State Park and the existing upper toilet shower buildings can be torn down in the future.
- Straits State Park was able to fill its 2 ranger vacancies. Don Comps was hired and came to us as a commissioned ranger from Clear Lake State Park. Olivia Smith was hired for the second slot and she had worked for us previously as a state worker 4.

- Straits State Park held its annual stomp the park event partnered with the High-Country Pathway for the new year hike series. Close to 80 people showed up for our lantern lit hike down to the lower campground with a fire by the lake and views of the bridge.
- Straits is open to hikers, snowshoers and skiers. It is very busy when the weather is good. Not too many people were out when the temperatures were below zero. Numbers are up this year for hikers and skiers using the park.
- There were some complications getting the ice suppression system up and running on Mackinac Island this year due to the high-water levels. The system is now hung instead of on the bottom. We also had to replace several motors this year at startup time. The old motors were worn out after many years of service.
- It's been difficult getting to the island to check on the system this winter with the new operations at the Mackinac County airport. The new company needs to have their planes inspected and could not when the federal government was shut down.

### Trails Section Unit Report – East UP

- Rail-Trail Projects: Doty Bridge has been funded for \$550,000, on the Coalwood grade by Wetmore, engineering is updating the plans, hope to bid out for summer construction.
- Snowmobile Trail Updates
  - Trail Reroutes
    - Garden Corners: Landowner revoked permission.
    - Sandtown Road: Logging on private land.
    - US 2 & M-77: Landowner revoked permission.
    - Autrain: Trail washout from recent rains and ice storm.
  - All trails are in great shape.
  - Some tree damage on various locations from recent storm
  - Several trail locations with logging operations on going for the winter.
  - 12 fatalities so far this year, 4 on trails, most involved roads.
  - Snowmobilers are everywhere and lots. Grand Marais has great use before Christmas.
  - 4 groomers were broken down at the same time, challenging covering all the grooming needs. All the Grant Sponsors did a great job of stepping up and keeping up with the traffic.
- ORV Trail Updates: Trail Proposal for ORV Route from Moran to Detour is in State Trails Coordinator approval level.
- Equestrian Trail Projects: No activity.
- Pathway Projects
  - North Country Trail Association has funding to construct a foot bridge over Blind Sucker river mouth.
  - Peek-a-boo Hill Mountain Bike Proposal has been approved by State Trails Coordinator.
- Event/Use Permits
  - Winter Drummond Island Jeep Jamboree will be held during January 24 & 25, 2019.
  - Snowmobile community had voiced concerns through complaints. Jamboree went well, going was slow, more snow than anticipated. Used less trail than expected, about 3 miles total. The groomer easily groomed the ruts out each night.

## **Eastern UP Fisheries Division**

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

- Staff has completed maintenance on field sampling equipment and updated limnological sampling gear. Field staff is now reading age structures (scales and spines) from 2018 field surveys.
- Management staff has completed management prescriptions written for stocking, regulation changes, and habitat projects. These documents are justification for management actions taken with the management unit(s).
- Field staff participated in the 2019 Black Lake Sturgeon spearing season on February 2. The season lasted just over 80 minutes with the total of 6 fish being speared. Just over 400 anglers registered to participate in the season. Weather was good and ice conditions were very suitable for the activities that day.
- Management staff participated in the annual Aquatic Resources Meeting in Harvey in January. This meeting gathers district MDEQ, USCOE, and local governments to discuss the previous year's efforts in resource management and upcoming large-scale projects. Various topics were covered at this meeting, highlighted with the Buffalo Reef project, Houghton County flood work, and introductions of new district staff.

- Staff participated in the Lake Superior Basin Team meeting in Munising. Topics for this meeting included Lakewide Action and Management Plan funding, Lake Sturgeon catch and immediate release in the Portage system (Houghton), Whitefish and Cisco bag limits, and a modification of trout season. All topics were for internal review before going to Management Team for a decision to move forward for public review at the upcoming spring public meetings.
- Cory Kovacs presented at Superior Central School to a science class discussing habitat improvements and benefits. The students are completing a crib structure project on a small pond located behind their school as part of the science curriculum.
- All DNR meeting held in Marquette on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Employees met new Director Dan Eichinger and discussed future vision of their respective Divisions.
- Muskellunge and Lake Sturgeon Harvest Registration system update:
  - As of February 11, 2019, a total of 19 anglers registered a harvested Muskellunge using either the phone or online system. The statewide harvest season for Muskellunge closes on March 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - The final count for Lake Sturgeon harvested in 2018 was 14.
- Spring public meeting dates for Fisheries Division regulation proposals (Conversation and Coffee Meetings). For more information, please contact the Newberry Customer Service Center.
  - Newberry: April 2, 2019
  - Munising: April 4, 2019
  - Sault Ste. Marie: April 16, 2019

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

##### *Thompson Fish Hatchery*

- Growth of steelhead continue to be behind recent years rates, but most raceways are on track to reach target size by May.
- Design for the new coolwater hatchery and steelhead upgrades are progressing with the anticipated bidding date at the end of February. Thompson staff have been in daily communication with HDR staff discussing design details including layout of cool water building and outside feeders and many other elements. Still anticipate the timber cut for the new hatchery location to commence any day. Application of wetlands permit is complete.
- Staff continue to rebuild and replace of inside tank valves as tanks become empty.
- Heavy snows have led to staff spending a lot of time in snow removal. More so than in recent years.
- A snow-slide off the roof of the hatchery building took out the 800 MHz antennae we use for emergency response. Pressed the old radio pagers back into service until the new antennae can be remounted.

##### *Marquette State Fish Hatchery*

- All 2018 production egg lots have hatched and are now down in rearing tanks.
- Clinical signs of EEDv in the yearling production lots of lake trout in outside raceways have disappeared and mortality rates are back to normal levels for fish of this age.
- Recent winter storms have kept all staff busy removing snow daily. This has been a normal year for total snow fall in the Marquette area to date but much of it has come in the last few weeks.

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

The winter months and severe storms have kept all our officers very busy. The cold weather hasn't slowed down winter enthusiasts. Our snowmobile trails have been very active. Unfortunately, we've had several accidents and a few fatalities in the district. There have also been plenty of fishermen braving the cold. We have three new officers currently training in the district and getting good exposure to a UP winter. A rotation of PCOs (Probationary Conservation Officers) will be occurring this week. Below are some of the activity's officers have been involved in since the CAC in December.

##### ***DISTRICT 2 – November 18-December 1, 2018***

- **COs Stephen Butzin and Mark Zitnik** checked two hunters who were packing up from their morning hunt. One hunter did not have the required hunter orange clothing and the second had just finished smoking marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Stephen Butzin and Mark Zitnik** observed a hunter walking to his vehicle. The COs asked if he had gotten a deer yet and the hunter showed the COs a 6-point buck on his phone that he had taken that morning. When asked to see his hunting license, the

hunter gave CO Zitnik his base license. The CO advised he needed to see his deer hunting license and the hunter produced a single deer tag. Upon further investigation it was discovered the hunter had shot the 6-point that morning and had a friend put his tag on it so he could keep hunting. Enforcement action was taken.

- **CO Mark Zitnik** was dispatched to Traunik late one night for a shining and trespass complaint. The CO patrolled the area and observed a vehicle at a residence matching the description of the suspected vehicle. A skinned deer was seen hanging in the garage. After a brief discussion the CO realized this was not the person he was looking for. The officer took a minute to check out a deer that was hanging in the garage. When the two were looking at the deer, the CO noticed there was no tag on the spike horn buck. The owner advised his father shot it and must have forgotten to tag the deer. Upon further investigation it was found the subject had also shot the deer with a .22 caliber rifle. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink** received a complaint from local dispatch regarding a large fire filled with building materials. Once the COs arrived on scene it was determined a father and son had bulldozed an old house and started to burn it. The COs located large amounts of treated wood, insulation, shingles, and tar paper in the burning pile. The fire department was called to put out the pile and the father received a citation.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a complaint of a subject driving a quad behind a locked Grouse Enhanced Management Site gate. COs Freeborn and Michael Evink went out the following day and located a quad trail on the wood line and followed the trail locating a parked quad. The COs followed a foot trail to a tower blind built on state land and a hunter, hunting over more than two gallons of bait. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Stephen Butzin** were on patrol when they came across a couple road hunting for deer. The COs observed pine boughs that were cut and stacked into the back of the couple's truck. The couple stated they just got done cutting those trees down the road. The couple was asked for their permit since the trees were on federal forest land, which they didn't have. It was discovered the female passenger had a warrant out for her arrest and the driver didn't have insurance on his vehicle. Enforcement action was taken on the female for her warrant and on the driver for cutting boughs without a permit and operating his vehicle without insurance.
- **CO Chris Lynch** received a complaint about an untagged deer hanging at a camp. **COs Lynch and Stephen Butzin** went to the camp and located the deer hanging. Upon closer inspection the deer had a 2017 deer tag attached to it. Contact was made with a hunter at the camp who stated it was his buddy's deer. The COs contacted the responsible hunter who was walking back to camp from his hunting blind. Upon checking the hunter, he didn't have a deer license in his possession. After a short investigation it was discovered the hunter had current unused 2018 deer licenses. The hunter received a citation for improperly tagging the deer.
- **CO Chris Lynch** received a complaint of two subjects who have been taking multiple illegal deer for several years. After a three-month long investigation, three suspects were developed along with a long list of violations. The suspects were a father, son and uncle. **CO Lynch and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon** interviewed the father at his residence. Multiple pictures of illegally taken deer were located along with one set of 6-point antlers. The investigation led to another nearby residence which resulted in the discovery of three untagged deer (two 8-points and a 7-point.) This led to additional interviews which ultimately uncovered multiple instances of failure to tag, borrowing/ loaning tags, hunting without a license, take deer with firearm out of season, aid and abet and improperly tagged deer. A report has been submitted to the Delta County Prosecutor's office for a review of 10 different charges.
- **CO Stephen Butzin** received a complaint that a subject was bragging about shooting a deer at night. CO Butzin interviewed several subjects regarding the matter. One subject was found to have shot a deer at night while using an artificial light with a .22 caliber rifle. A report has been submitted with the Delta County Prosecutor's office.
- **CO Calvin Smith** was patrolling a very secluded two-track when he came across a vehicle and began to converse with the driver. CO Smith observed an uncased firearm in the passenger seat. When CO Smith checked the firearm, he found it was loaded with four rounds of ammunition. CO Smith asked the driver of the vehicle why he was driving around with a loaded firearm. The driver replied, "I didn't think I would run into anybody way back here." Law enforcement action was taken.
- **Sgt. Mark Leadman and Cpl. Trey Luce** patrolled an area south of Newberry and located a fresh deer gut pile. Upon further checking, the COs located the hunting blind where the deer had been killed. Numerous violations were encountered including litter at the site where the deer was cleaned and an illegal blind with over two gallons of bait. A suspect was identified and was contacted that evening as he was returning to the blind with more bait. The suspect still possessed both his kill-tags and after a short interview confessed to having killed a 6-point buck and not tagging it. The untagged deer was located in a friend's garage and was seized. Enforcement action was taken and the litter was cleaned up.
- **CO Calvin Smith** was conducting a commercial deer processor inspection in Chippewa County when he observed a suspicious deer that was shot in Mackinac County. CO Smith turned over the investigation to Mackinac County CO Colton Gelinias. CO Gelinias followed up with the case and interviewed a husband and wife. After a short conversation, the husband admitted to shooting the deer and tagging it with his wife's tag. Law enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Colton Gelinias and Sgt. Mark Leadman** were on patrol in Mackinac County when they stopped a vehicle for several violations. During the contact it was determined the driver and passenger were both possessing open intoxicants. Law enforcement action was taken.

## ***DISTRICT 2 – December 2-15, 2018***

- **CO Calvin Smith and Sgt. Mark Leadman** conducted a joint patrol with the United States Custom and Border Protection Agency at the International Bridge. The joint patrol targeted illegal importation of cervid animals into Michigan.
- **COs Justin Vinson, Calvin Smith, Colton Gelinas, and Sgt. Mark Leadman** targeted an anonymous complaint of illegal ORV trails on state land and bait piles for deer that far exceeded the two-gallon limit. Several illegal ORV trails were located and the COs also came across a pair of hunters who had operated their ORV in a closed area, had open intoxicants in an ORV, and were hunting without their deer license in their possession. The ORV also lacked the required ORV license. Law enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Justin Vinson** was patrolling the Mackinac and Luce County line when he noticed hay along the side of the road where a truck had been parked a few days earlier. CO Vinson followed tracks into the woods and located the man's hunting spot. CO Vinson found a heavily baited site with over 14 piles of hay mixed with corn, and sugar beets. Law enforcement action was taken for excess bait.
- While checking ice fisherman on a local lake, **CO Robert Freeborn** checked a group of fishermen that stated they had caught some fish. When CO Freeborn was looking at their fish, he noticed what looked to be an undersized walleye. The fisherman stated it was about 15". CO Freeborn measured the fish and turned out to be 13.5". The fisherman was adamant it was 15" according to his six-inch Leatherman that he used to measure the fish. A citation was issued for the undersized fish.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** was contacted by **CO Jeremy Sergey** to assist with serving a warrant on a suspect that was lodged in the Alger County jail. CO Freeborn contacted the suspect, who was already serving time for prior DNR violations, and advised the subject of other DNR charges pending in another county that he would have to appear on upon his release from the Alger County Jail.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Chris Lynch** participated in the annual 'Shop with a Cop' program in Schoolcraft County. The program consists of all the county law enforcement officers being assigned a child in need. The child would be picked up at the child's residence and then treated to a breakfast of his/her choice at 3 Season's Café that was donated by the café. After breakfast, the COs and children went to the local Shopko where the child was able to pick out presents for his/her family and one for themselves. The items were then paid for by the 'Shop with the Cop' program that receives donations from several community members and businesses. After shopping, the COs and children met at Cedar Street Cinema, where the cinema set up a private showing of a movie as well as donated drinks and snacks. While the movie was playing, the children's presents were wrapped by the officers and volunteers. Once the movie was finished, the COs brought the child back home. This is an annual program that receives lots of support by the local community and businesses.
- **COs Michael Evink and Robert Freeborn** were following up on an ORV complaint. DNR Wildlife personnel reported an illegal ORV trail running through one of the states Grouse Enhanced Management Sites (GEMS). The COs followed and located the ORV, and with some patience followed an additional foot trail to a permanent elevated blind on state land. The surprised hunter was cooperative and admitted to numerous violations including leaving a permanent blind on state land, too much bait, operating an ORV in a closed area and failing to wear a crash helmet. The hunter received a ticket and warnings for the violations.
- **CO Stephen Butzin** was patrolling Nahma Township when he encountered an individual who was cutting tree boughs in the Hiawatha National Forest. When asked for his permit, the individual stated he was baiting his deer blind and not cutting boughs. The bed of the individual's truck was loaded with tree boughs, there was fresh tree boughs behind the vehicle, as well as freshly cut trees. CO Butzin asked the individual to take him to his blind where he was baiting and the hunter refused. As CO Butzin started to follow footprints in the snow, he asked the individual to come with him. A few moments later CO Butzin found cutting tools and more cut tree boughs. The individual then confessed to cutting the boughs without a permit. A citation was issued.
- **CO Stephen Butzin** was patrolling Masonville Township when Delta County Central Dispatch but out a "be on the lookout" (BOL) for a vehicle where the driver was thought to be driving under the influence and tried to run another motorist off the road. CO Butzin nearby and headed to the location and located the vehicle. When he attempted to stop the vehicle, it fled and led the CO on a pursuit. As the vehicle entered a populated area, responding agencies were able to help get the vehicle stopped by boxing it in. The driver was arrested for fleeing eluding by CO Butzin, as well as resisting and obstructing by the Michigan State Police (MSP).
- **COs Stephen Butzin and Chris Lynch** were doing routine processor inspections when they encountered an individual who did not purchase a license before taking an 8-point antlered buck during bow season. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Stephen Butzin** received a complaint of too much recreational bait in an area. While patrolling the area CO Butzin located the bait, and enforcement action was taken. While enroute to the bait site, CO Butzin arrived at a residence on a dead-end road. As CO Butzin pulled in the driveway, he observed a white-tail deer cape and an 8-point antlered buck head on a wood pile without a visible tag attached. CO Butzin contacted the homeowner, who after a brief interview, stated that her step-son shot the deer without a license. Further investigation found that the step-son was a minor who was hunting without parental supervision while using a high-powered rifle. The minor also did not have a valid hunting license. The father of the minor later confessed to placing his tag on the deer several days after it had been killed and processed. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** and Alger County Deputy Sam Grahovac responded to a call from local motel in Munising concerning a possible child abductor. When they arrived, they found a five-year old boy in the room by himself. When the 61-year old father arrived,

the officers spoke with the father about why he was leaving the five-year old child alone while he was gone. The father did not think it was an issue. The officers were also concerned because the five-year old child was still wearing diapers and drinking baby formula from a bottle. Considering the child's condition was not age-appropriate, the officers made phone calls to Child Protective Services (CPS) to assist in the situation. Upon further investigation, the officers confirmed the child did belong to the father. The father reported marrying a woman from another country to live a better life in America. CPS will be following up with the family.

- **Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon, COs Chris Lynch, Stephen Butzin, Colton Gelinas, Calvin Smith, and Mark Zitnik** executed a search warrant in Grand Marais on a subject CO Zitnik had arrested last year for poaching on several occasions. The poacher also has several other cases pending in Menominee County. CO Zitnik received information that the subject was driving around Grand Marais shooting deer and bringing them back to his residence. The COs executed the search warrant and retrieved enough information to request an arrest warrant for the subject. Two days later, COs Colton Gelinas and Mark Zitnik served the warrant at 6:30 am. on the Grand Marais residence and found the subject had fled at 2:00 am. that morning. The COs searched Alger county for most of the remaining morning, following dead-end leads. Around 10:30 am they received a tip concerning his whereabouts. They found the subject hiding in a bedroom in an apartment located in Ishpeming. The subject was lodged in the Alger County jail for probation violations, hunting while revoked and hunting out of season.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** contacted a hunter on follow up after conducting a commercial meat processor inspection. The CO's had noticed the hunter brought an 8-point buck in on November 15th and purchased his hunting license after legal shooting hours on the same day. After a short interview with the hunter, the hunter confessed to shooting the buck without a license. The deer was seized, and a report will be submitted to the Delta County Prosecutor's office for review.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** contacted a hunter on follow up after conducting a meat processor inspection. The COs noticed the hunter brought in an 8-point buck on October 31st and purchased the tag after legal shooting hours on October 30th. After a short interview with the hunter, the hunter confessed to shooting the buck without a license. Upon further investigation it was discovered the hunter shot an 8-point buck in 2017 without a license. Both deer were seized, and a report will be submitted to the Delta County Prosecutor's office for review.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** successfully served an arrest warrant on a subject without incident. The hunter had taken a deer out of season with a .22 caliber rifle.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** successfully served a four-count arrest warrant on a subject without incident. The hunter had taken an 8-point and 9-point buck without a license and used two deer licenses of another. The individual that was loaning the subject deer licenses also received a citation for the violation
- **CO Chris Lynch** was a panelist on a public tv show called "Ask the DNR." CO Lynch answered questions on live TV from callers phoning in to the show.

#### ***DISTRICT 2- December 16-29, 2018***

- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** successfully served an arrest warrant on a subject without incident. The hunter is facing 12 charges, including taking a deer with a firearm during closed season, taking multiple deer without a license, aid and abet, loaning a deer license to another, hunting without a license, fail to immediately tag a deer, and violation of the apprentice hunt.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was investigating a hunter suspected of illegally shooting a bear. It turned out the bear was legally shot but during the investigation it was discovered the hunter had shot a 5-point buck without a license. The deer was seized, and the hunter was issued a citation for the illegal deer.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** received a complaint of a hunter who was trespassing on posted property and trespassing on a railroad right-of-way (ROW). The COs followed up on the complaint and observed a subject operating an ORV on the railroad ROW and through posted property. The COs contacted the subject up in a tree stand hunting with a crossbow in Zone 1 without a permit. The COs asked to see a hunting license and the hunter didn't have his hunting license with him. The crossbow was seized, and enforcement action was taken on the hunter for hunting deer by illegal method, failure to have hunting license afield, ORV trespass, recreational trespass, and railroad trespass.
- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint of multiple deer in an individual's garage in Gladstone that did not have tags attached. CO Butzin went to the residence and was able to confirm the complaint. The individual was processing the deer without registering as a commercial deer processor with the state and there were little to no records being maintained as required by law. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** checked a local lake for ice fishermen. When checking a group of fishermen, one of the fishermen caught a pike as CO Freeborn was standing at their shack. The fisherman landed the fish and looked at it and asked what the size limit for pike was. CO Freeborn explained that it was 24-inches. CO Freeborn then observed a pike lying next to a tip up just past the shack. CO Freeborn asked how big that pike was. The fisherman stated if the size limit was 24-inches that it is probably short. CO Freeborn checked the pike and determined that it was 21-inches. A citation was issued for the short pike.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** checked two anglers coming off the Two Hearted River. The anglers told the CO they had just caught "some really nice coho's." A quick check revealed they also caught and kept a brook trout. When CO Zitnik asked the fishermen about the fish, the two said they were unaware the season closed at the end of September. Enforcement action was taken.

- **CO Colton Gelin** spoke at a snowmobile safety class at the Les Cheneaux Snowmobile Association. CO Gelin talked with the students about snowmobile laws and safety.
- **CO Colton Gelin** assisted the Department of Environmental Quality with a follow up investigation referencing heavy equipment being used on the Lake Superior shoreline in Chippewa County without a permit. Several pieces of equipment became stuck and frozen into the lake. CO Gelin arrived at the location and observed that the equipment had been removed from Lake Superior as required by the prosecutor's office.

#### **District 2 – January 14, 2019**

- **CO Mike Evink and PCO Todd Sumbera** were on routine patrol when a call came over the radio of a possible domestic violence situation that evolved into a possible abduction. The Officers were first on scene, which they secured, then gathered further information and held down until the Mackinac Sheriff Department arrived.
- **CO Mike Evink and PCO Todd Sumbera** received a complaint of a bobcat that was taken without a kill tag. CO Evink and PCO Sumbera interviewed the subject who claimed it was a fisher that was harvested and not a bobcat. Further digging along with interviews conducted by the COs revealed that a clerical error was made by the Biologist registering the animal. The subject did indeed harvest a fisher with all required licenses and tags.
- **CO Mike Evink and PCO Todd Sumbera** were patrolling snowmobiles in Wetmore when they stopped a pair of sleds. One subject had failed to register his snowmobile and the other failed to obtain a trail permit. Each individual stated they did not know they needed what the other rider had. Tickets were issued for corresponding violations, both subjects thanked CO Evink and PCO Sumbera for how the situation was handled as well as their work on the trails
- **COs Steve Butzin and Chris Lynch** were patrolling Garden Township. They encountered an individual operating a motor vehicle down a county road with a loaded firearm. The individual had already received a warning from CO Butzin earlier this fall for having an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle and had a prior citation for having a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle. A citation was issued.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was patrolling Garden Township when he observed a vehicle parked alongside a county road. When CO Butzin attempted to contact the individual, the vehicle drove off. A traffic stop was attempted on the vehicle for defective equipment. CO Butzin had his emergency lights and sirens activated but the vehicle did not stop. After a brief pursuit of the vehicle it came to a stop in a field. The individual was arrested and lodged at the Delta County Jail. A report has been submitted for charges of fleeing and eluding a Conservation Officer, altering and forging a license plate, having an improper license plate, operating a motor vehicle without valid registration or insurance, and possessing open intoxicants in a motor vehicle. The individual also had five outstanding warrants, one of which was for an unpaid citation which CO Butzin had issued earlier last year.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** successfully served an arrest warrant without incident on a subject for illegally taking 2 eight-point bucks and barrowing a deer tag.
- While patrolling Little Bay De Noc, **COs Rob Freeborn, Mike Evink, Steve Butzin, Chris Lynch, and PCOs Todd Sumbera, and Mike Olesen** encountered several violations. Citations were issued for fishing with too many lines, and expired ORV registrations.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** successfully served an arrest warrant without incident on a subject for illegally taking an 8-point buck deer.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** was on snowmobile patrol in Alger County when he observed a passing snowmobile with an expired registration. A traffic stop was conducted, and the CO addressed the violation. The rider said his wife takes care of their paperwork and she should get the ticket. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Michael Olesen** were on Indian Lake in Schoolcraft County checking ice fisherman. Upon contact with the fisherman the COs noticed a smallmouth bass laying on the ice. The fisherman stated that he had caught a smaller one and threw it back but kept this one. The fisherman was informed that the season on bass had closed and enforcement action was taken. The bass was released back into the lake.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Michael Olesen** were on routine patrol in Schoolcraft County when the COs observed a vehicle with an apparent expired registration. A stop was made on the vehicle and confirmed that their registration was expired. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Michael Olesen** got a report of a potential illegal deer being taken by a youth during the 2018 rifle deer season. Further investigation along with an RSS check were completed to determine that there was a high probability that the offense had occurred. Contact was made with the father of the youth, during the investigation he confessed to his son taking a 3-point buck during rifle season without a tag. The firearm used to take the deer was seized and a report has been submitted to the local prosecutor.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Michael Olesen** received a complaint of an individual fishing with too many lines on Big Bay De Noc. The COs along with assistance from COs Steve Butzin and Chris Lynch made contact with the ice fisherman on the bay. It was determined that there were multiple violations among the fisherman on the bay. One fisherman had 12 lines, enforcement action was taken by CO Stephen Butzin and Chris Lynch. ORV violations were also present for which enforcement action was taken.

- **COs Robert Freeborn, Michael Evink, Stephen Butzin, Chris Lynch and PCOs Michael Olesen and Todd Sumbera** performed sound meter testing in Alger Co. Throughout the day several hundred snowmobilers were contacted and 4 citations were issued for excessive noise, 4 citations for careless operation, 2 citations for no trail permit, 3 citations for expired registration, and 2 citations for improper registration. Over 30 warnings were also given.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Michael Olesen** were on routine patrol in Schoolcraft County checking ice fisherman on McDonald Lake. Upon contact with one fisherman it was determined that he had too many lines in the water. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Colton Gelinis, Mark Zitnik, Justin Vinson and PCO Ariel Corr** were patrolling northern Luce county on snowmobiles. The officers pulled off the trail in an area that receives heavy traffic. Shortly after they stopped, they observed a group of riders with one rider operating on the extreme left side of the trail coming around a blind corner. The group was stopped and law enforcement action was taken for the snowmobiler operating in a careless manner.
- **CO Colton Gelinis** received information that a doe was shot with a bow in Mackinac County. The taking of an antlerless deer during any season is closed in this part of the Upper Peninsula. CO Gelinis found a dumped hide with attached doe head and interviewed the suspect. After further investigation the suspect confessed to the killing of the doe and also taking the deer without a deer hunting license. A report has been submitted to Mackinac County Prosecutor for review.
- **CO Colton Gelinis** was on patrol in Mackinac County following a vehicle that appeared to be road hunting. CO Gelinis continued to follow some distance behind the vehicle for a few miles on a two track. The two subjects then shot a doe out of the truck window. The suspects were contacted and provided tribal licenses and were turned over to the Sault Tribe Conservation Officer for enforcement. Both the firearm and the deer were seized per request of the Tribal Law Enforcement.
- **Cos Colton Gelinis, Justin Vinson, Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** patrolled Luce County on snowmobiles during the busy weekend with the first significant snowfall. The COs cited numerous subjects with violations for careless operations at busy intersections.
- **CO Justin Vinson** was inspecting a local deer processor, when the processor notified him that they had received a deer from out of state that morning. Officer Vinson gathered the information of the individual that brought the deer to the processor and seized the deer for testing. After interviewing the man who brought the deer in for processing it was revealed that he received it from a friend who had been hunting in Iowa. At the residence of the suspect CO Vinson discovered the man had brought back 3 field dressed deer, two of which were still in his possession. Law enforcement action was taken and the deer were seized. All 3 deer tested negative for chronic wasting disease at the DNR laboratory.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** responded to a single snowmobile accident in Chippewa County. The snowmobiler lost control of his sled when he applied his brakes causing the snowmobile to slide sideways and turn over. The snowmobiler was thrown from the sled and suffered a broken collar bone. The CO's assisted with first aid and handled the investigation at the scene.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** came across a fisherman that had six tip ups out. The fisherman told the COs that his friend had just left to visit his grandfather who was also fishing and would be right back. After five minutes the friend returned on his snowmobile without wearing a helmet. The COs educated the fisherman on leaving his lines unattended and law enforcement action was taken for operating a snowmobile without a helmet.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** came across a fisherman on Munuscong Bay that was fishing with four lines. The fisherman also had a 14-inch walleye at the bottom of his five-gallon bucket. Law enforcement action was taken for fishing with more than three lines and the fish was released to swim another day.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** contacted a fisherman on Munuscong Bay that had two tips ups set just outside his ice shack. The fisherman greeted the COs but was trying to hide one of his jigging poles inside his ice shack. When CO Smith asked the fisherman if he had one to many lines out, the fisherman replied, " yeah you got me." A check of the fisherman's catch revealed a 12.5" and 13.5" walleye. Law enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** were on snowmobile patrol when they came across a snowmobile that was not displaying a valid trail permit. A stop was made and at first the snowmobiler said he had purchased one, but it must have come off his sled. When CO smith asked if he was sure that was the case the snowmobiler replied, " no I didn't purchase one and thought I would take my chances." Law enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** were on snowmobile patrol when they approached a sharp corner in the trail and had to take evasive action from an oncoming snowmobile. The snowmobile operator was on the inside of the corner and was traveling at a high rate of speed. A stop was made, and a citation was issued for careless operation of a snowmobile.

#### ***DISTRICT 2 – January 28, 2019***

- **CO Mike Evink and PCO Todd Sumbera met CO Rob Freeborn and PCO Mike Olesen** to conduct a group snowmobile patrol in Grand Marais. A sound meter was set up to measure noise emissions. Snowmobiles in Michigan manufactured after July 1, 1980 must not exceed a limit of 88 decibels. Compliance was high, a few tickets were issued for failure to register a snowmobile.
- **Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon and PCO Todd Sumbera** conducted a snowmobile patrol in Christmas, three tickets were issued for careless driving along with several warnings for careless operation and operating against the flow of traffic.

- **CO Mike Evink and PCO Todd Sumbera** were on their way to conduct a patrol on Indian Lake when a call of a missing 7-year-old came over the radio. The two COs were on scene with Manistique public safety within minutes, and the girl was found within half an hour.
- **CO Mike Evink and PCO Todd Sumbera** conducted a patrol on Indian Lake. Contacting a group of four ice shanties, they encountered a gentleman that had several violations including two unregistered snowmobiles, no license in his possession, and failure to affix name/ address to ice shanty. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Mike Evink and PCO Todd Sumbera** responded to a domestic disturbance call in Manistique, the COs were first on scene and kept the parties separated until Manistique Public Safety arrived. While still dealing with the domestic the COs were requested to respond to a vehicle rollover on M-94 20 miles north.
- **CO Mike Evink and PCO Todd Sumbera** were first on scene to back to back snowmobile accidents in northern Schoolcraft County. When approaching the intersection of trail 8 and trail 43 one subject crashed into the rear end of his riding partner causing a three-snowmobile pile up. CO Evink gathered information and photographed the scene while PCO Sumbera cared for the injured snowmobiler who was going into shock from his injuries. Due to the remote location it took EMS personal close to an hour to arrive. One injury required EMS transport to Marquette General Hospital. Two individuals refused medical treatment. The second accident occurred on snowmobile trail 8, involving one sled. The subject was driving too fast for trail conditions before losing control and crashing his snowmobile. Injuries were suffered, but medical treatment was refused.
- **COs Justin Vincent and Mark Zitnik** were on snowmobile patrol in northern Luce County when the COs noticed a group of snowmobilers without trail permits. Upon contact the snowmobilers told the COs that it was too cold to put the stickers on. The COs instructed the snowmobilers how to properly put the sticker on a snowmobile. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** and Forest Service Officer (FSO) Dave Tembruell patrolled a busy section of trail on the holiday weekend. Numerous contacts were made throughout the day and two citations were issued for trail permits and failure to display snowmobile registration.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** and FSO Dave Tembruell were dispatched late Sunday evening to a remote lake in northern Alger County to assist 3 snowmobilers who sank their snowmobiles riding across a lake. The temperature was plummeting to -18 degrees, and the young men were soaked from sinking their machines, so the Officers knew they had to find them very soon. CO Zitnik and FSO Tembruell responded on snowmobiles to the location where the snowmobiler's cell phone was pinged. After locating the young men, the Officers, Alger County RS 21, and EMS treated the snowmobilers and got them back to their vehicle safely. The next day the three submerged snowmobiles were recovered from the lake.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** was on snowmobile patrol during a busy weekend in Alger County with over 100 contacts being made. The CO gave 18 verbal warnings and 12 citations for failure to display snowmobile registration, failure to attach trail permit, no trail permit, unregistered snowmobile, and careless operation.
- **COs Steve Butzin and Chris Lynch** were patrolling the Delta County and Schoolcraft County line. Officers encountered several ORV's operating on the highway. A citation was issued.
- **COs Steve Butzin and Chris Lynch** were on snowmobile patrol near Wetmore in Alger County. Officers contacted approximately 75 snowmobile operators. Multiple citations and warnings were issued for careless driving of a snowmobile as well as for not having a valid registration or trail permit.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Michael Olesen** were on group patrol with **COs Mike Evink, Stephen Butzin, Chris Lynch, and PCO Todd Sumbera** on Little Bay De Noc in Delta County checking ice fisherman. During the patrol there were over 120 fishermen contacted. Upon contact with one fisherman, he was unable to produce a fishing license and after checking RSS it was determined he was fishing without a license. Another fisherman was contacted while traveling to his fishing location. The individual was operating an ORV without an ORV registration. A group of young fishermen were contacted, and it was determined that they were drinking underage, fishing without a license, and operated an ORV to their fishing location without an ORV registration. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Robert Freeborn, PCO Michael Olesen, CO Mike Evink and PCO Todd Sumbera** performed a sound meter patrol in Alger county. During the sound patrol there were multiple riders contacted regarding careless operation of a snowmobile, failure to attach trail permits, failure to attach registration, and proper registration location on a snowmobile. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Michael Olesen** were on patrol in Schoolcraft County. During the patrol a snowmobiler was observed running a stop sign and crossing a county road. The rider was contacted regarding the careless operation of a snowmobile. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Robert Freeborn, PCO Michael Olesen, and PCO Todd Sumbera** attended a local snowmobile trail association meeting in Schoolcraft County.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Michael Olesen** were on routine patrol in Alger county checking fisherman on Munising Bay. Multiple contacts were made. Upon contact with one fisherman it was determined that he was in possession of a short splake. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Colton Gelinias, Justin Vinson, Chris Lynch, and Stephen Butzin** participated in a two-day active shooter training held at NMU. COs are certified police officers in Michigan and would respond to any active shooter event in their communities. The training provided the COs with numerous techniques that can be used in an active shooter event.

- **CO Colton Gelinas** was on snowmobile patrol when a fatal snowmobile accident occurred in northern Luce County. CO Gelinas and Luce County Sheriff Deputy Tim Maskus assisted Michigan State Police Troopers out of the Sault Ste. Marie Post in the investigation. Speed was determined to be a major factor in the crash.
- **CO Colton Gelinas** was on patrol in Mackinac County checking ice fishermen. CO Gelinas observed approximately 12 tip ups on the ice with several flags up but nobody was checking the tip ups. After 30 minutes CO Gelinas located and contacted a group of fishermen who stated they got cold and needed to warm up. CO Gelinas explained to the fishermen that the lines needed to be attended at all times. Law enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Colton Gelinas** was on patrol in Luce County checking ice fishermen. CO Gelinas contacted several individuals fishing on Big Manistique Lake when he discovered one of the fishermen did not purchase a 2018 Fishing License. Law enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** contacted a fisherman on Munuscong Bay who had cut his hand on his auger while trying to drill a fishing hole. PCO Corr supplied him with first aid materials. Near the conclusion of the contact, it was noticed the fisherman had expired snowmobile registration. After talking to him about this, he stated he had it on the counter at home. A verbal warning was given for failure to display a valid registration.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** were on Munuscong Bay checking ice fishermen. PCO Corr checked the licenses of a couple that were fishing. After talking to the couple about fishing, PCO Corr noticed that there were no helmets with the couple who admitted they came out by snowmobile. The COs educated the couple on the safety concerns of riding with no helmet and issued a verbal warning.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** investigated a RAP complaint concerning a dumped deer carcass in the ditch on the side of the road. The COs drove out to the dump location and found that the carcass had a rope around its neck and had been processed to the bone. There was no evidence to lead them to finding the person who dumped the carcass.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** travelled to Hulbert to attend the Eastern U.P. Snowmobile Association meeting. Many local law enforcement teams were there to show support. Many things were discussed concerning the grooming of trails and statistics for the last year including contacts made, accidents, and citations issued. Grant money was also distributed to Sheriff's departments.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** were conducting stationary snowmobile patrol near Trail 8 and Deland Rd. Numerous snowmobilers were coming through the area. A couple of warnings were given to riders who had not applied but had in their possession trail permit stickers. One rider came through with no trail permit sticker and no history of buying one for current year. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** assisted in an investigation of a possible illegally killed wolf, the investigation is ongoing.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** were patrolling to Newberry in snowy and icy conditions when they came upon a driver travelling over posted speed limit on M-28. The CO's conducted a traffic stop and the driver was educated on safely driving in adverse weather conditions. A verbal warning was issued.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** were travelling down M-28 when six snowmobiles were found driving down the shoulder of the highway. A traffic stop was made on the snowmobiles. The first driver in line immediately began talking about how he knew that what they were doing was wrong and they were just looking for a gas station. The driver insisted that the other people had no choice but to follow him so only he should get a citation. A citation was issued to the driver for operating on a State highway and \$100.00 bond was taken as he was a non-resident.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** were pulling into the Newberry Field Office when a snowmobiler approached and said he had gotten his snowmobile stuck. The subject was wearing cowboy boots and did not appear to have proper snowmobile attire. The COs assisted by Sgt. Mark Leadman helped the snowmobiler get his snowmobile unstuck from a deep snowdrift. The snowmobiler was very thankful, and he continued his way.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** were travelling back to Sault Ste. Marie when they came upon a group of four snowmobilers who were travelling on state highway M-123 on the plowed portion of the right of way. COs contacted the group who stated that they were very lost. COs educated the group on not being allowed to drive on the state highway and gave them directions to their destination. A verbal warning was issued to all riders for driving on a state highway.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** braved the negative forty-degree weather and patrolled Drummond Island for the first annual Winter Jeep Jamboree. There were around fifty jeeps participating in the jamboree. There were no issues on the island during the event.
- **CO Justin Vinson** patrolled with Luce County Sheriff Department for snowmobile activity. The officers were working an intersection when shortly after their arrival three snowmobilers failed to stop for the posted sign. Officer Vinson caught up to the group that continued to ignore stops signs, and eventually stopped at a state highway. At the intersection an assault occurred involving two individuals. The officers separated the men, gained control of the scene, and assistance from Michigan State Troopers was requested. The assault charges were turned over to the Michigan State Troopers and citations were issued for the snowmobile offenses.
- **CO Justin Vinson** was on snowmobile patrol when he observed a group of snowmobilers jumping the snow banks of a plowed county road. Officer Vinson contacted the group and advised them that while they could operate there, doing so with disregard for any cross traffic was dangerous. Law enforcement action was taken.

- **CO Calvin Smith, CO Mark Zitnik, Cpl Kevin Postma & PCO Ariel Corr** were on stationary patrol in Sault Ste Marie for the I-500 snowmobile parade which consisted of hundreds of snowmobiles and people. The parade was trying to break a Guinness Book of World Records for the most snowmobiles in a parade. Everyone was happy to participate and were full of smiles and waves. The CO's enjoyed interacting with the crowd and being part of the fun even though the parade fell just short of the world record.
- **COs Calvin Smith, Mark Zitnik, Colton Gelinias, Justin Vinson, CO Chris Lynch, Rob Freeborn, PCOs Todd Sumbera, Ariel Corr & Mike Olesen, Lt. Skip Hagy, Sgt Mark Leadman, Cpl's Jon Busken & Kevin Postma** patrolled Chippewa County during the I-500 weekend. The COs made numerous contacts with snowmobilers riding area trails. Enforcement action was taken on several snowmobiles for registration violations, as well as careless operation, fail to obtain trail permits, exceed noise emission levels and use marijuana in public place. Overall during the weekend event CO teams patrolled 490 miles of trails, made over 400 contacts gave 37 verbal warnings and issued 21 citations.
- **CO Mike Evink and PCO Todd Sumbera** responded to a domestic east of Manistique. Upon making contact the COs assisted Schoolcraft County Sheriff's Department in handling the situation. Subjects were separated and one was removed from the premises, resolving the disagreement.
- **CO Mike Evink and PCO Todd Sumbera** were checking ice fishermen when they received a radio call of a suicidal subject at the diner on Main Street, Naubinway. The subject had made multiple cuts to his wrist and forearm with a razor blade and left on foot towards the public marina. With quick response COs Evink and Sumbera were on scene within minutes along with a Mackinac County Sheriff's Deputy. The officers established the individual did not want to end his life but, was just angry. First aid was rendered until EMS arrived on scene.
- **CO Mike Evink and PCO Todd Sumbera** set out with plans to patrol the relic ride, north of Manistique. Plans quickly changed when the COs were in Wetmore and radio traffic came through of a snowmobile accident on Trail 7 where the rider had failed to navigate a corner, left the trail and hit a tree five feet in the air. It was reported that the rider was bleeding from his ears and losing consciousness. The two COs were first on scene with CO Mark Zitnik and Deputy Sam Grahovac from the Alger County Sheriff Department was not far behind. Contact was made, rendering aid, preventing the rider from losing consciousness. The subject was air lifted to the Marquette General Hospital. Shortly after wrapping up the first accident, the officers responded to another snowmobile accident a half mile away. The COs were first on scene to render aid. The rider struck a tree breaking his leg and alcohol may have been a factor. While waiting for EMS transport, a group of snowmobilers were stopped, three sleds failed to attach trail permits. Enforcement action was taken. While returning to the patrol truck, another snowmobile accident was called out. A third snowmobiler had struck a tree, the result was another broken leg. The COs arrived on scene to direct traffic until all parties involved could safely vacate. They then returned to Schoolcraft County to finish up the night patrolling the relic ride.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** was dispatched during the State of Emergency to a vehicle stuck on a road near the COs residence. The CO responded on snowmobile due to the rapidly accumulating snow fall. When the CO arrived, he encountered 3 individuals sitting in a car waiting for help. The CO questioned why they did not walk to the nearest home for help, and the subjects revealed that they were wearing sandals and jeans, not adequate for weathering the snow storm. CO Zitnik requested a tow truck, but dispatch reported that due with M-28 highway closed due to weather, no tow vehicles were able to respond. CO Zitnik located a neighbor that was able and willing to tow the subjects to a safe location.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** and Alger County Deputy Sam Grahovac conducted a snowmobile patrol on a busy Saturday in Alger County. Over 40 contacts were made during the patrol with 6 warnings given and 8 citations issued. These included: failure to obtain trail permit, failure to attach trail permit, careless operation, failure to display snowmobile registration, and failure to register a snowmobile.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** was patrolling Munising Bay on snowmobile, checking ice fishermen, when he was dispatched to the scene of a fire in the town of Munising. There was a garage downtown that was engulfed in flames. When the CO responded and reached the scene, the fire had spread to a nearby motel. Munising and AuTrain fire departments quickly extinguished the flames. No one was harmed during the blaze.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** received a complaint of a pick-up truck stuck on a snowmobile trail. The snowmobile trail has a director's order not allowing wheeled vehicles wider than 65 inches to operate on the trail. The COs drove their snowmobiles to the location of the pick-up truck and contacted the operator of the truck on scene. When asked why he drove down the trail, the subject stated he knew he shouldn't of but wanted to follow coyote tracks. The subject had rutted the trail due to taking his truck down the trail. The subject then drove his unlicensed ORV down the trail to try getting his truck unstuck. The subject was cited for violating the directors order and operating an unlicensed ORV.
- **CO Chris Lynch** recently had a case adjudicated in court. A subject pled guilty to 4 charges. He pled to taking deer with firearm closed season, 2 counts of taking deer without a license, and loaning a deer tag to another. The subject was sentenced to 15 days in jail, hunting privileges revoked for 5 years, fined \$1650, ordered to pay \$8000 in restitution, and the firearm used in the poaching was forfeited. This is a result from an approximate 2-month long investigation. In total 16 charges were brought on 3 different suspects on 10 deer that were in violation over a three-year period as a result of the investigation. The other two subjects each plead guilty to two lesser charges each.

- **CO Chris Lynch** recently had a case adjudicated in court. A subject pled guilty to 4 charges to include taking two illegal deer and borrowing two deer licenses from another. The charges stem from the 2017 and 2018 firearm deer seasons. The subject was sentenced to 10 days in jail, hunting privileges revoked for 5 years, fined \$1400, ordered to pay \$12,500 in restitution, 1 year of probation, and the firearm used in the poaching was forfeited. This is a result from a trespassing complaint that COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin investigated. The hunter illegally shot a deer and then was confronted by hunters whom were leasing the property from the owner to hunt on. After a verbal altercation ensued the hunters leasing the property made a complaint.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was checking bear registration forms when he noticed a suspicious registration form. The hunter had killed the bear on the day he bought the license. However, the license wasn't purchased until that evening (after dark). It was discovered the hunter, who was from Newaygo County, shot the bear in Marquette County. CO Lynch passed the information on to CO Jeff Ginn and PCO Tim Barboza whom interviewed the hunter. The hunter confessed to shooting the bear without a license and the bear and rifle used to kill the bear was seized. A report will be submitted to the Marquette County Prosecutors Office for review.
- **COs Steve Butzin and Chris Lynch** were patrolling the Gladstone area. The two CO's responded to a domestic assault which was in progress. Once on scene they were met by two Delta County Sheriff Deputies. Investigation at the scene revealed that a male subject had physically assaulted a female subject at the residence. The male subject was arrested and lodged at the Delta County Jail for Domestic Assault and Battery 3<sup>rd</sup> offence, a felony in the State of Michigan.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was patrolling Brampton Township. CO Butzin received a complaint of an individual recreationally feeding over the two-gallon limit. When CO Butzin arrived at the location, he observed approximately 15 deer standing over a feeding pile which consisted of two round bales of hay, and half a truck load of sugar beets. A citation was issued.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Michael Olesen** were on routine patrol when a tip was received regarding illegal snares set on CFA land. Following the information provided from the tip, 2 illegal snares along with other traps were found. The COs were able to find the trapper attending his line the following day. After a brief interview, the trapper admitted to placing the snares on CFA land. The 2 snares were seized, and a citation was issued for the snares.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Michael Olesen** were in a group patrol during the I-500 race. Several hundred contacts were made throughout the event. During the patrol trail permit violations, careless operation, and registration violations were addressed and enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Freeborn and PCO Michael Olesen** were on routine snowmobile patrol. During the patrol many contacts were made, and snowmobilers were stopped for careless operation and trail permit violations. During one of the careless operation incidents, a snowmobile drove left of center in the opposite lane around a corner and nearly hit CO Freeborn. Two citations were issued for careless and one for no trail permit during the days patrol.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Michael Olesen** were on patrol when a call was received for a PDA on M-28. Officers responded to the scene and assisted with traffic control until the wrecker was able to remove the vehicle from the ditch. COs handled the UD-10 traffic report as well.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Michael Olesen** had a report of a roadkill wolf. The wolf was retrieved and examined to confirm the cause of death as road kill. The wolf was turned over to Wildlife Division.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Michael Olesen** were on patrol when a vehicle with expired tags was observed. An enforcement stop was made on the vehicle. It was determined the vehicle did not have a current registration and had no proof of insurance. A citation was issued for expired registration.

#### ***DISTRICT 2 – February 11, 2019***

- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** went out to assist **CO Colton Gelinas and Mackinac County WLD Biologist Kristie Sitar** with finding a wolf whose collar was sending out mortality signals. Upon arrival at the area where the signals were coming from, the signal became a live signal and the wolf was on the move. COs and the biologist entered the woods just to make sure the animal was not deceased. There were multiple signs of recent wolf pack activity that reassured the biologist that the wolf was indeed alive and had just hunkered down for the night. No enforcement action was needed.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** assisted Sault Ste. Marie City Police with a domestic disturbance at the local motel. COs helped to provide back up and maintain a secure scene. Parties were separated, and disturbance was defused. No enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** received a self-reported bobcat kill. The caller stated that his dogs had cornered the bobcat and killed it in the backyard. He wanted to know if he could keep the hide and tan it. COs went to the residence and retrieved the bobcat and educated the caller on why they couldn't let him keep the animal. He was disappointed but understood the reasoning.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** were conducting a stationary patrol in Brimley at a trail intersection. Multiple snowmobiles crossed the intersection. Two verbal warnings were issued for snowmobiles with registration stickers on the tunnel of the snowmobile. No other violations were witnessed.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** went to Alger County and met with CO Rob Freeborn and PCO Michael Olesen to patrol snowmobiles from Grand Marias to Seney. There were many snowmobiles out for a middle of the week ride and a group of snowmobilers were stopped when the two lead snowmobiles did not have trail permits. The husband and wife claimed to have

purchased the permits but said they would not stick. The wife was able to produce her unused permit in a plastic bag, but the husband could not produce a permit. A citation was issued to the husband for failing to attach trail permit.

- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** were patrolling to Kinross when a trio of snowmobiles were observed driving along the plowed surface of M-80. A traffic stop was conducted, it was found that none of the three sleds displayed proper registration, one sled had the sportsman's card placed instead of the trail permit decal, and the other two sleds had no trail permits. All the riders were from Ohio and had no idea that they were on a state highway and claimed they were only following directions from the gas station attendant about where to get some good food. Law enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Ariel Corr** were patrolling near a snowmobile trail that was along the side of M-80 when a snowmobile towing another snowmobile were observed to not have trail permits. Upon further investigation, the owner of both sleds had not registered the sleds under his name since purchasing the sleds almost two weeks ago. Registrations were expired in 2005 and 2015. The owner was given a verbal warning about the registration and was issued a citation for fail to purchase trail permit.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Colton Gelinias** received a call from Central Dispatch reference a lost snowmobiler in Northern Chippewa County. Three snowmobilers took off from Paradise earlier in the day to ride snowmobiles in the UP, that day quickly turned to panic when one of the snowmobilers went missing. With limited cell phone service and frigid temperatures, it became a desperate situation for the two snowmobilers looking for their lost friend. After a three-hour search and no luck, the two snowmobilers called 911. COs Vinson and Gelinias quickly loaded their snowmobiles and took off for the last known location of the snowmobiler before night set in. With luck on their side the COs were able to contact the lost snowmobiler by phone. Having knowledge of the area the COs knew where the snowmobiler was located. The COs asked the lost snowmobiler if he could flag down a passing by snowmobile, in which he did. The COs talked to the Good Samaritan and asked if they would escort the lost snowmobiler to safety, in which they did. The lost snowmobiler was safely reunited with his party.
- **COs Colton Gelinias and Justin Vinson** were on snowmobile patrol in Luce County when they observed a snowmobile without any registration decal. The owner of the snowmobile was from Ohio and was unaware that he had to have his snowmobile registered. The COs explained to the owner that all states require registration on snowmobiles and the registration decal acts like a license plate on a vehicle. The owner of the snowmobile was issued a citation.
- **COs Colton Gelinias and Justin Vinson** were on snowmobile patrol in Luce County when they observed two snowmobiles without trail permits. The day before CO Gelinias contacted these two snowmobilers for not having trail permits. CO Gelinias advised the snowmobilers to put trail permits on their snowmobiles. After seeing that the snowmobilers did not listen to his advice, CO Gelinias issued citations to both snowmobilers.
- **CO Calvin Smith, CO Mark Zitnik, and PCO Ariel Corr** conducted a radar patrol on Trail 8 in Sault Ste Marie. Many snowmobiles came through the area but used safety and caution while traveling down the trail. Due to the safe riding of the snowmobilers, there was no need for enforcement action to be taken.

### **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.