



Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: June 2019

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

Public Meetings

- June 10 U.P. DNR Listening Session (Regarding Proposed Deer Baiting/Feeding Regulation), Island Convention Center-Harris, 2-4pm
 - June 10 Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, Wetmore, 6:00pm
 - June 12 UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, DNR Marquette Office, 6:00pm
 - June 13 Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Detroit
 - June 18 UP Wildlife Habitat Workgroup Meeting, River Rock Lanes-Ishpeming, 9:30am
 - July 9 UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Raber Area Sportsmen's Club-Goetzville, 6:30pm
 - July 11 Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing
 - July 18 Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, Harris, 6:00pm Eastern
 - August 8 Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing
 - August 15 UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Wyman Nursery-Manistique, 6:00pm
 - August 27 UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, DNR Crystal Falls Field Office, 6:00pm Central
 - August 28 UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Great Lakes Sportsman's Club-Escanaba, 6:00pm
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U.P. State Park, State Sponsored & Other Area Notable Activities

- June 7 ORV Instructor Academy-Escanaba (Contact 989-619-3784 for more information)
 - June 8-9 Free Fishing, ORV, & No Rec Passport Weekend
 - June 15 Fayette Historic State Park-Christmas in June
 - June 15 Wells State Park-Crafty Campers Arts and Crafts Sale
 - June 16 Michigan Iron Industry Museum-Iron, Steel and the Automobile
 - June 21 Van Riper State Park-Archery 101
 - June 21 Porcupine Mountains State Park-Summer Solstice Celebration
 - June 22 Muskallonge Lake State Park-Hunting for Superior Rocks and Agates
 - June 23 Porcupine Mountains State Park-Needle Felted Journal Cover, Creative Writing, Mixed Media Star Fairy
 - June 23 Tahquamenon Falls State Park-Two Hearted Trail Run
 - June 30 Porcupine Mountains State Park-UP Sun Catcher
 - July 4 Wells State Park/Baraga State Park/Van Riper/Fourth of July Celebrations
 - July 4 Fort Wilkins Historic State Park-Reading of the Declaration of Independence
 - July 14 Baraga State Park-Kayaking 101 & 102
 - July 20 Indian Lake State Park-Musician Bob Hausler
 - July 21 Porcupine Mountains State Park-Stitching & Dyeing the Shibori Way
 - July 22 Fort Wilkins Historic State Park-Eagle Harbor Life Saving Station Open House
 - July 26 Straits State Park-NWTF Intro to Turkey Hunting Clinic
 - July 27 Indian Lake State Park-NWTF Intro to Turkey Hunting Clinic
 - July 28 Palms Book State Park-Family Fun Day
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Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- Whitmer approves \$26 million in outdoor recreation development, acquisition grants (5/14/19)
- \$8,350,000 in funding supports critical dam removal, repair projects (5/14/19)
- Arctic grayling eggs, ORV safety, finding fawns (5/13/19)
- Say Yes to Michigan Day, state parks centennial fun and more (5/9/19)
- Public meeting May 23 on Pilgrim River brook trout regulations (5/9/19)
- Showcasing the DNR: A photography moment, outside the door, at the side of the road (5/9/19)
- Eight projects share \$1.25 million in DNR's Aquatic Habitat Grants (5/8/19)
- Public comments response summary available on Buffalo Reef (5/7/19)
- NRC meeting Thursday, fish stocking, wild mushrooms & more (5/6/19)
- UPSA names Boren 'Outstanding Conservationist' for 2019 (5/4/19)
- DNR adds proposed deer regulations listening session in Menominee County (5/3/19)
- Showcasing the DNR: Cultural resources are an integral part of the DNR (5/2/19)
- New grant program to help manage aquatic invasive plants (5/1/19)

2018 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Development Grant Approvals (Approved May 2019)

- **Baraga County** – Point Abbaye Natural Area Pathway & Picnic Improvements - \$49,500: Development project at Baraga County's Point Abbaye Natural Area to create a barrier-free pathway from the existing parking area out to the point. Point Abbaye is a remote and rocky peninsula situated between Lake Superior and Keweenaw Bay. The project will develop four new picnic sites with tables and grills along the pathway. The site also features accessible and primitive tent camping opportunities.
- **Delta County** – Rapid River Falls ORV/ATV Campground - \$85,000: Development of a 25-site semi-modern campground focused on serving ORV and ATV enthusiasts at Delta County's Rapid River Falls Park. The park will feature a beginner loop for families with youth that are just starting out in the sport. This ORV/ATV campground will be the first of its kind in the Upper Peninsula, attracting riders from throughout Michigan and beyond. This campground will act as a trailhead for regional DNR trail routes with connectivity to miles of riding opportunities across the U.P. The park also features a day-use picnic area overlooking scenic Rapid River Falls.
- **Delta County – City of Escanaba, North City Limits Non-Motorized Pathway - \$300,000**: Development project in the City of Escanaba to construct a non-motorized pathway along US-2 at the north end of town which will help connect Escanaba to the adjacent communities of Wells, Escanaba Township and the City of Gladstone. The North City Limits Pathway will also connect Bay College, MTEch Center, Bayside Soccer, Hannahville Ice and Turf Complex, U.P. State Fairgrounds and numerous businesses. The North City Limits Pathway will enable pedestrians to safely traverse the city. The project is also supported by a Transportation Alternatives Program Grant through the Michigan Department of Transportation.
- **Delta County – DNR, Fayette Historic State Park - Visitor Center Accessibility - \$50,000**: The A. Gene Gazlay Visitor Center at Fayette Historic State Park is popular for park visitors that come for the Fayette historic townsite. The visitor center provides interpretation and tells the story of the abandoned iron smelting town. The visitor center is accessed by an existing concrete pathway from the parking lot, which has exceeded its useful life and is in need of ADA compliant accessibility enhancements. This project will replace the existing pathway, install an accessible ramp and striping at the parking lot and also improve the landing immediately adjacent to the visitor center entrance to eliminate existing trip hazards.
- **Gogebic County** – Bessemer to Ramsay Iron Belle Trail Project - \$299,900: Development of a three-mile long 10-foot-wide paved recreational trail from Bessemer to Ramsay in Gogebic County as part of the Iron Belle Trail. The trail will be located primarily on an existing railroad grade as well as an abandoned roadway and through a wooded property. This trail project will extend a previously constructed 6.7-mile segment from the western terminus in Ironwood to Bessemer. The bike trail will link Ramsay to Bessemer, Ironwood, and Hurley to the west which will increase the region's tourism attraction due to the additional recreational opportunities. The project is also supported by a Transportation Alternatives Program grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation.

- **Gogebic County – City of Ironwood, Miners Memorial Heritage Park Mountain Bike Trail System - \$280,000:** Development of a new mountain biking trail system in Ironwood's Miners Memorial Heritage Park. The 167-acre park, located in the center of the city, was once the location of numerous historical mining operations. The new network of mountain biking trails will provide opportunities for cyclists of all levels - from beginner to advanced. The project will include development of several trailheads around the park as well as a link and trailhead on the Iron Belle Trail north of the site. The park also features a network of walking, cross-country and snowshoe trails and hosts community activities such as the Candle Light Snowshoe Hike and the SISU Skifest, a popular cross-country ski race in Ironwood.
- **Iron County – Bates Township, Paint River Access Site Improvements - \$58,800:** Development of a new accessible launch site on the Bates-Crystal Falls Township Paint River Water Trail. The project includes accessible parking, vault toilets, an accessible paddle craft launch, an accessible camp site, and other improvements to the waterfront area to enhance access to the river. Development of three additional rustic campsites, including a vault toilet, are also planned upstream of the accessible launch.
- **Keweenaw County – Grant Township, Keweenaw Point Trail - High Rock to Montreal River - \$297,000:** Development of 15.6 miles of a 30-mile bike-optimized, looped multi-use non-motorized trail through rugged and remote terrain paralleling Lake Superior at Keweenaw Point near Copper Harbor on state land. The single-track trail will be open to both cyclists and hikers. This project is a joint effort of Grant Township, the Copper Harbor Trails Club and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. This project is the final phase of an effort to provide a unique remote, non-motorized back-country trail experience. The project expands non-motorized trail access to unique and scenic geography acquired with funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and will help sustain and expand recreational tourism in the region.
- **Schoolcraft County – DNR, Palms Book State Park - Raft Canopy Replacement - \$50,000:** Palms Book State Park is home to one of Michigan's most alluring natural attractions - Kitch-iti-kipi. Two hundred feet across and 40-feet deep, Kitch-iti-kipi is Michigan's largest freshwater spring. More than 10,000 gallons per minute gush from fissures in the underlying limestone at a constant 45 degrees Fahrenheit. A self-guided raft experience allows guests to view the spring's crystal-clear waters and resident fish species. Several rafts have serviced Kitch-iti-kipi over the years. The current raft was installed in 2004 with funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The shade canopy on the raft is comprised of canvas material over an aluminum frame and is in need of replacement. This project will replace the canopy to ensure a quality experience for visitors to this extremely popular tourist destination.

2018 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Acquisition Grant Approvals (Approved May 2019)

- **Luce County – DNR, Tahquamenon River Access Purchase - \$300,000:** Acquisition of 157.5 acres adjacent to Tahquamenon Falls State Park to provide a public water access site on the Tahquamenon River, filling a gap within this 33-mile-long stretch of the river. The property contains an existing boat launch and frontage on M-123 and provides consolidation of ownership within Tahquamenon Falls State Park and state forest land. The property also provides numerous forestland recreation opportunities northwest of M-123. If acquired, the land will be managed as part of Tahquamenon Falls State Park.
- **Mackinac County – Clark Township, Lake Huron Access and Trailhead Acquisition - \$41,900:** Acquisition of an approximately two-acre parcel on M-134 to be developed for parking to serve multiple recreational venues including the nearby Hessel Harbor and Launch, as a trailhead for regional snowmobile trails, and the adjoining 40-acre Michigan Nature Association Beaver Dam Nature Sanctuary to the east. Additionally, the Little Traverse Conservancy's Mackinac Bay Nature Preserve is located immediately across the highway.
- **Marquette County – DNR, Iron Belle Trail Easements-West U.P. - \$200,000:** Acquisition of 10.44 miles of 30-foot-wide hiking trail easement in Marquette and Ontonagon Counties. The purpose of this project will be to secure permanent trail easement rights for the hiking portion of the Iron Belle Trail and North Country National Scenic Trail.
- **Marquette County – Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority, Negaunee Trailhead Acquisition - \$29,600:** Acquisition of three acres of property in Negaunee along the 47-mile Iron Ore Heritage Trail for the development of a trailhead that will support a variety of trail users including walkers, bikers, ORVs and snowmobiles. The parcel of property is at the highly visible and easily accessible corner of CR 492 and M35. The future trailhead will include parking and restrooms that will be open 24/7 year-round. The new trailhead will provide a much-needed access point for users of the Marquette to Negaunee segment, a distance of 14 miles.

Grant Contacts

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

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

Western UPCAC Update

Western UP Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting – May 22 in Houghton

- New WUPCAC Member introduction
- Annual Election of Officers: Phil Wirtanen and Warren Suchovsky retain their officer positions.
- Western UP Trail Update
- Marquette County Shooting Range Update
- Proposed UP Deer Regulations Recommended to NRC
- CWD Update
- Subcommittee Reports: Fish stocking presentation and future resolution discussed.
- Public Comment: Two individuals spoke, one about deer regulations and one provided an update on the Huron Bay Field Station in Baraga.

The next WUPCAC meeting will be held Thursday, July 18 in Harris.

May 2019 NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

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

- The commission approved fall turkey hunting regulations.
- Director Dan Eichinger approved an order to regulate activities on certain state-managed public lands, that includes prohibition on the use of sky lanterns, regulations for the use of electronic bikes and regulations regarding the use of recreational unmanned aircraft (drones).
- The director approved nine land transactions. Details can be found in the NRC agenda.

Marketing, Partnership, Youth and Outreach Advisory Committee

Beth Fults of the Marketing and Outreach Division and Kathleen Lavey of the Forest Resources Division gave a presentation on the sustainable forestry campaign undertaken by the Department of Natural Resources to inform the public about forest management. The campaign was sparked by negative public reaction to clear cuts, which are a critical part of forest management. Research provided a basis for understanding general public knowledge of sustainable forestry practices. Knowledge was lowest in southeast Michigan and highest in the Upper Peninsula. Age made a difference, too. Seventy percent of 18 to 24-year olds agreed with the statement, “cutting down trees is bad for the environment,” whereas only 30 percent of people age 65 and over agreed with that statement. The campaign targeted that younger audience with television commercials, social media posts, articles and digital ads in the fall of 2017 focusing on the theme, “A tree for life. Forests for a lifetime.” A second phase of the campaign the following spring included a new jingle, radio advertisements, drink coasters and geofencing. Geofencing uses electronic billboards to reinforce messages delivered by different means in a particular geographic area. In this instance, billboards were used in an area where restaurants and bars carried the same messages on drink coasters. The campaign did another round of research in summer 2018. That survey showed statistically significant improvement in public understanding on important questions related to forestry. This year the campaign is using radio influencers to buttress and support its messages, with continued focus on 18 to 44-year-olds, expanding the campaign across the southern Lower Peninsula this fall. The campaign is consistent across the DNR,

understanding that other divisions such as Parks and Recreation and Wildlife have a close connection to sustainable forestry.

Tom Weston of the Marketing and Outreach Division updated the commission on the department's ongoing efforts to replace our retail sales system, which sells 120 different license applications and permits. The process to replace the system launched in earnest last fall. The new system will go live in February 2020. The department plans extensive communications, including focus groups with license agents and customers to listen to their experiences with the system. The new system will feature a number of improvements, including accepting out-of-state driver's licenses as a form of identification, which is not possible within the current system. The system will customize license options for individual buyers, including prompts to offer license types based on past buying patterns. The system will also suggest items to customers that might save them money or provide greater recreational opportunity – offering an ORV trail permit with an ORV license, for instance. The new system will also provide voluntary automatic renewal of licenses. The new vendor for our retail sales system will offer 7-day-a-week hardware support to retailers, compared to five days now.

Dustin Isenhoff and Tyler Czarnopis of Marketing and Outreach talked about a renewed effort by the department to increase license sales to nonresident customers through research-driven, targeted marketing. The process started with efforts to determine where the highest concentration of non-resident license buyers reside. Not surprisingly, we found they are in populations close to the Michigan border in nearby states. Then we surveyed customers in those areas to determine their hunting and fishing practices. This helped better target customers by age, gender and specific hunting or fishing interest. We used Facebook ads to reach those individuals, with the goal of driving them to our website to buy licenses. Since the campaign launched, the department has seen a 33 percent increase in non-resident turkey hunting license sales over the previous five-year average. The campaign saw a 7 percent increase in the five-year average for nonresident fishing licenses.

Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter said the department has two major ongoing fisheries capital improvement projects – at Thompson State Fish Hatchery and at Little Manistee River Weir. Contractors have been approved for both. The timeline for the Thompson project has been slowed because of permit requirements from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Little Manistee River Weir will be closed for certain periods of time to allow for work to be done there. Another upgrade, at Oden State Fish Hatchery, would install an ultraviolet light facility. The UV light system will kill pathogens to ensure that fish from elsewhere do not introduce foreign pathogens into Michigan waters. This will be important as the department pursues the Arctic Grayling initiative, which will rely on brood stock from Alaska.

Wildlife Chief Russ Mason said the DNR is working with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to improve our joint response to chronic wasting disease in relation to captive cervid facilities. On Friday, the department is celebrating the approval by the U.S. Department of Agriculture of the DNR's first completed wetland mitigation bank site, which will be in Osceola County. The site will benefit farmers who are out of compliance with federal wetland rules and have lost Farm Bill benefits.

Kelly Straka of the Wildlife Division reported to the committee on a memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the DNR and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The document, which outlines responsibilities for managing bovine tuberculosis in the northeast portion of the Lower Peninsula, was signed April 12. The MOU outlines the DNR's surveillance responsibilities, annual reporting requirements and metrics the DNR will use to gauge the trend of the disease. Specific actions are triggered if the DNR does not meet testing quotas or if two or more cases of bovine TB are found in any of six specified counties in the Bovine TB area. Recently, two additional TB-positive cattle herds were discovered -- one in Alpena County and one in Presque Isle County -- making a total of 75 infected herds in the state.

Brian Frawley of the Wildlife Division told the committee about a survey of hunter attitudes toward a proposed mandatory Antler Point Restriction in Huron, Lapeer, St. Clair, Sanilac and Tuscola counties in the thumb area of the state. The APR would require that all bucks taken in the area have at least four points on one antler, with the aim to protect one-and-a-half-year-old bucks from harvest. Rules established by the department and NRC require that at least 66 percent of hunters surveyed in an affected area support a proposed APR for it to be implemented. This survey found 55 percent of those surveyed supported the proposed APR. Because the survey did not reach the 66 percent threshold, the department recommended that an antler point restriction not be implemented in the five-county area.

Chad Stewart of the Wildlife Division presented recommendations for antlerless quotas and chronic wasting disease regulations for the 2019 deer seasons. Snow depths and snow duration have a significant impact on deer populations in the Upper Peninsula. The most recent very severe winter in 2013-2014 had a substantial negative effect on the U.P. deer population. The impacts from our most recent winter are not as severe as they were in that year, Chad said, and that helps inform the department's recommendations. Specific proposed regulations for 2019 deer seasons:

- The department is recommending increased antlerless quotas for the U.P. to better manage CWD. These quotas will be before the NRC for action at the commission's June meeting.
- In other regulations, slated for action by the NRC in July, the department is proposing that the Liberty Hunt – also known as the youth hunt – move to an earlier date, from the Saturday following Sept. 15 to the second Saturday in September. Based on this change, the 2019 Liberty Hunt would be held Sept. 14-15, rather than Sept. 21-22 as it is currently scheduled.
- The department recommends a regulatory redefinition of "bait" to include all products intended for consumption, excluding scents. Scents are intended to attract deer by odor and are not intended for consumption. Scents do not artificially congregate deer in the same way bait does.
- Based on the state's CWD Response and Surveillance Plan, the department is recommending a ban on baiting and feeding in the core CWD Surveillance Area in the Upper Peninsula. This is an area of about 660 square miles, defined by major roadways within portions of Menominee, Delta and Dickinson counties around the single case of a CWD-positive deer found last year in the Upper Peninsula. Consistent with regulations elsewhere in Michigan, the department is providing an exception to the baiting ban for hunters with disabilities during the Liberty and Independence hunts.
- The department recommends reinstating an antlerless option during archery season in areas open to antlerless hunting in the U.P.
- In the Lower Peninsula, the department is recommending expansion of the CWD management zone to Barry, Lenawee and Midland counties, based on additional CWD positives since the 2018 deer seasons.
- Following NRC direction, the department is recommending Antler Point Restrictions in the CWD Core Zone in Mecosta, Montcalm and Ionia counties to evaluate the impact of APRs on deer herd dynamics.
- The proposed regulations also include a number of minor administrative changes.

Committee of the Whole

Director Eichinger recognized retiring Natural Resource Deputy Bill O'Neill for his 34 years of service to the state, many of them in the Forest Resources Division. Director Eichinger then introduced Bill's successor, Shannon Hanna.

Jeff Poet, a member of the Michigan Wildlife Council, along with Jill Holden of Gud Marketing gave an update on the council's work. The council was created in 2014 and is funded with a \$1 surcharge on hunting and fishing licenses with the goal of educating the general public about the important role hunting and fishing play in conservation. Jeff talked about the formation of the council and early research by Gud Marketing – hired to design and execute the public information campaign -- that showed there was considerable lack of understanding among non-hunters and non-anglers about the role hunting and fishing play in caring for the state's natural resources. Because of these efforts, there has been a 33 percent increase in the belief that wildlife management by humans is necessary. There has been a 45 percent increase in the number of people who find it meaningful that hunting and fishing licenses pay for wildlife management and habitat preservation. Work remains to be done, Jill said. People of all ages in all areas of the state, even hunters and anglers, don't know that hunting and fishing license fees – and not state taxes – pay for wildlife management. The next phase of the campaign will address that misunderstanding.

May 2019 Legislative Updates – Craig Brunet, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

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

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

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Appropriations. The bill has passed both the House of Representatives and the Senate and is ready to be signed by the Governor.

HB 4331 Allow an Individual to Possess a Loaded Firearm in or on a Vehicle when on Private Property – Rep. LaFave

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to possess or transport a loaded firearm in or upon a vehicle, including an ATV or UTV, if the individual owns the private land or is accompanied by or has permission of the owner or lessee of the private land.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Military, Veterans and Homeland and passed out of committee on May 7, 2019. The bill has been rereferred to the House Judiciary Committee.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation

HB 4442 Creates a Commercial Hunting Guide License and Commercial Fishing Guide License – Rep. Howell

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by creating both a commercial hunting and commercial fishing guide license. The legislation outlines the requirements for obtaining each license. The cost for each license is \$500 for a resident and \$750 for a nonresident. If a resident or nonresident has already received either a hunting or fishing guide license in the same year, the Department shall only charge \$250 for the other hunting or fishing guide license in the same year. Money collected under this section must be deposited into the Game and Fish Protection Account.

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

HB 4463 Exempt Certain Vehicles from State Recreation Passport – Rep. LaFave

This legislation amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by exempting from the State Recreation Passport any motor vehicle operated to transport passengers for hire, if the vehicle is only parked to pick up or drop off passengers within a state park, or for a vehicle parked at a state operated public boating access site on a free fishing day.

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

HB 4486 State Recreation Passport Opt-out – Rep. Howell

This legislation amends the Michigan Vehicle Code requiring that an individual would need to elect not to pay for the State Recreation Passport during the issuance or renewal of a motor vehicle registration.

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

HB 4519 Provide 2 Week Preference of State Camp Sites for State Residents – Rep. Steven Johnson

This legislation amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require that all state camp sites be first offered for reservation to residents of the state for at least 2 weeks. The legislation includes reservations for all campground sites, cabins, yurts and lodges.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation.
- 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.

Division Updates

Finance & Operations: Michelle Zellar, Eastern UP

- 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 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.
- During the Summer Free Fishing Weekend, it is also Free ORV Weekend! Many locations around the state hold fun events during the weekend. Check back for events happening in 2019!

- Want to know when future Free Fishing Weekends will be? The winter weekend is always the Saturday and Sunday of President's Day Weekend and the summer weekend is always the Saturday and Sunday following the first full week of June.
- Construction progress continues to be made on the Sault Ste. Marie Field office.
- Debra Frazier, General Office Assistant has accepted the Secretary position at the Naubinway Field Office, and her replacement is pending hire.

June/July/August 2019 Season Reminders

June 1: Deadline to apply for Bear and Elk hunts

June 1: Muskie possession season opens

June 8-9: Free Fishing Weekend 2019

June 15: Bass possession season opens on Lake St. Clair, St. Clair R, Detroit R, Boundary Waters

June 24: Bear & Elk drawing results posted on website

July 1: May apply for fall Turkey hunts

July 8: Dog training opens; may also use dogs for night hunting (see Fur Digest)

July 15: May apply for an Antlerless Deer license (*Can also apply for Reserved Deer Hunts; Youth 16 or younger may purchase one Junior Antlerless License, over the counter*)

July 15: Opener for Turtle seasons (snappers and softshells)

July 16: Sturgeon opens on Lake St. Clair, St. Clair R, Detroit R, also Otsego Lake (Otsego)

August 1: Crow season re-opens (open dates are 8/1 – 9/30 and 2/1 – 3/31)

August 1: Deadline for Fall Turkey applications

August 1: May apply for Reserved Waterfowl hunts

August 1: Hunting and Trapping digests available at license agents

August 1: Hook and lure size/weight restrictions begin on all streams (through 5/31, see p. 11)

August 10: May place bear blinds in Zone 1 and may place bear baits in Zone 1

August 15: Deadline for Antlerless Deer applications (also Reserved Deer Hunts)

August 19: Fall Turkey drawing results posted on website

August 17: May place bear blinds in Zone 2 (see Bear Digest for baiting dates)

August 26: Leftover Turkey licenses on sale (for unsuccessful applicants, others on 9/3)

August 28: Deadline to apply for Reserved Waterfowl

EUP Wildlife Division: Terry Minzey, Wildlife Supervisor (prepared by Don Brown, Wildlife Tech)

▪ **Wildlife Surveys**

- Sharp-tailed grouse surveys were conducted in the east U.P. Chippewa County staff and a partnering agency conducted a section occupancy survey within the sharp-tail hunt zone. Staff, partnering agencies, and volunteers in other areas conducted a traditional lek survey on known, current, and historic leks to gather information on abundance and distribution. Results are in the process of being analyzed and will be available in the summer.
- American woodcock singing-ground surveys were conducted in late April and May. Staff survey on established routes in the U.P. Results are used as predictors of trends in woodcock populations. This is a federal survey that Michigan participates in to generate information across the nation. Results will be published by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service later this year.
- Staff have also conducted a spring fawn recruitment index. The spring fawn-to-total deer survey provides an index of over-winter survival of fawns and recruitment into the population. The U.P. is broken into 6 survey units which are estimated to have similar recruitment and at least 400-500 deer are surveyed in each survey unit. The survey includes all deer management units.

▪ **GEMS Activities this Spring**

- Halifax GEMS—Luce Co.: Various Wildlife shrubs and crabapple trees were planted by unit staff and other trails are being developed in the GEM
- Melstrand GEMS—Alger Co.: 1,000 Red Oak saplings were planted to supplement regeneration in a mixed aspen and cherry stand.

- Garden Grade GEMS-Delta Co.- A 21-acre opening is being planted with buckwheat this spring with an eventual goal of a perennial clover opening for wild turkey, white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse and other wildlife species
- Drummond GEMS-Chippewa Co.- Sault Unit staff worked with the Drummond Island Elementary School as well as some Detour High School students, Ruffed Grouse Society, Drummond Island Sportsmen's Club, and Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac Conservation District to seed sections of trail and plant shrubs along the trail in the Drummond GEMS. Ruffed Grouse Society provided the seed, Drummond Island Sportsmen's Club contributed most of the site preparation, and the Conservation District provided tools and many of the shrubs for planting. Approximately 25 third-sixth graders plus half a dozen high school students took part in addition to representatives of the sportsmen's club and RGS.
- **Other Spring Habitat Projects**
 - 230 crabapple trees were planted around a maintained opening in a break-out area in the Indian Lake deer wintering complex in the Shingleton Unit during a habitat event day with members of U.P. Whitetails of Schoolcraft County
 - Red oak and apple were planted in a deer wintering complex during a habitat event involving the Tahquamenon Sportsmen's Club in the Newberry Unit
 - 100 red and white oak saplings were planted in the Sault Ste. Marie Unit in a northern hardwood stand in a deer wintering complex near Cedarville as part of a habitat project. The Cedarville High School Environmental Science class as well as members of the Les Cheneaux Sportsmen's Club, Straits Area Sportsmen's Club, and Raber Area Sportsmen's Club all took part in the planting event, and the Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac Conservation District also supported the project. The northern hardwood stand is undergoing special treatments, and oak planting is part of that. The oak trees will provide a future source of acorns that will be food for deer.
 - A prescribed burn was conducted in a more than 200-acre opening on Drummond Island in the Sault Ste. Marie Unit. The openings are used by species ranging from sharp-tailed grouse and sandhill cranes to deer and black bear. We have been trying to do this burn for several years, and the conditions finally lined up to be able to do it.
 - A prescribed burn was conducted in an approximate 700-acre opening in the Thompson Plains in the Shingleton Unit for openings maintenance to benefit species ranging from sharp-tailed grouse to white-tailed deer
 - Each year EUP Wildlife staff conduct forest inventory on thousands of acres of state forest land to evaluate timber harvest techniques for the benefit of various wildlife species, this process will last through the spring and summer months.
 - A 16-acre opening is being planted with buckwheat with an eventual goal of a perennial clover opening in the Indian Lake deer wintering complex to benefit white-tailed deer in the Shingleton Unit.
- **Birding and Nature Trails**
 - Staff continue to work on developing two birding trails, Silver Creek and Shore to Shore birding trails, in the Newberry Unit.
 - Shingleton Unit staff repaired a 100ft section of boardwalk at the Rainey Wildlife Area walking trail near Manistique to maintain public access.
- **Outreach**
 - Newberry Unit staff presented on "wildlife sounds of spring" at a local public library.
 - Newberry Unit staff partnered with the Luce County 4H in their "Planting Seeds of Knowledge" event where backyard birding and bird identification were presented to nearly 200 attendees.
 - Shingleton Unit staff participated in a career day at Munising Middle School for Middle/High school students from Munising Public Schools, Munising Baptist School, and Superior Central Schools.
- **Wildlife Calls**
 - Newborn fawns will be seen soon, and every year there are calls from folks concerned about abandoned fawns. It's normally best to leave them be. Mothers leave their fawns for extended periods at times to protect them from predators, and the majority of what appear to be abandoned fawns are not abandoned.
 - Nuisance wildlife calls, particularly for bears, are common in spring and summer. Most nuisance issues are resolved by removing potential food sources, such as bird feeders and garbage.

Eastern UP Fisheries Division

Field Units (Cory Kovacs, Lake Superior Management Unit)

- Field staff participated in a Stream Assessment training in Gaylord. This training was put on by the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.
- Management staff participated in a Minerals Lease Parcel Training for Metallic Minerals requests. This was held in Marquette and include all Divisions of the DNR.
- Field staff has completed a handful of surveys on area waters. Surveys completed to date include Kaks Lake, Weber Lake, North Manistique (Round) Lake, Camp Eight Lake, and Bodi Lake.
- Walleye fry have been transferred from Thompson State Fish Hatchery to the Management Unit ponds. Bay de Noc strain walleye fry were stocked in Beer Pond and Moss Lake pond. Beer Pond is a cooperative rearing pond with the Straits Area Sportsmen's Club. Both of these ponds will grow spring fingerlings to be stocked in area waters.
- Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians stocked fry into the Tahquamenon River and Milecoquins Lake. The fry were surplus from their operations at their rearing ponds.
- Upper Peninsula hatcheries have stocked area waters and just about completed for the spring season. Species produced by the Upper Peninsula hatcheries include splake, brook trout, lake trout, rainbow trout, and chinook salmon.
- The Lake Superior Basin Team held a meeting to discuss priority habitat projects across the Upper Peninsula, trout lake access, and angler demographics.

State Fish Hatcheries (Jan VanAmberg, Hatchery Manager)

Thompson State Fish Hatchery

Fish Culture

- Collected 19 million walleye eggs from 140 pairs of walleye, in two egg takes (April 24 & 26) from Little Bay de Noc. This year's collection dates were later than average but only by about a week. We provided 1 million green eggs to Grand Traverse tribe and will transfer 750,000 eyed eggs to Soo tribe in mid-May. Soo tribe committed to stocking the fingerlings in Little Bay de Noc.
- Received approval from DEQ for reduced monitoring requirements for formaldehyde in our discharge. Reduced from every day we treat (90 days/year) to 2 days per year. Total cost for analysis to date is \$10,000. Still waiting for response to our request for reduced monitoring for TSS, TP and chlorine/pH.
- Yearling steelhead growth has been behind all cycle due to reoccurring fish health issues requiring multiple treatments. This is the first year since 2014 that bacterial gill disease treatments have been necessary.
- Chinook are scheduled to be mass marked the week of May 8th. All are going to Nunn's Creek.
- Steelhead should be stocked out by the end of May, Chinook by mid-May and walleye by the end of the month.

Maintenance

- Capital Outlay Update. Received updated budget from HDR and with deducts for the deep well, storage building, generator and chiller we still appear to be over budget. As the project progresses and we determine all the contingency money are not needed we will have some opportunity to add critical elements back in. Had preconstruction meeting with general contractor on April 11th. Discussed sequencing of project work. Clark has set an aggressive schedule to have the ponds lined and the coolwater building enclosed by late summer. Also meet with Natural Gas provider to discuss scheduling and payment for installation. In order for gas to fit in the budget, construction has to proceed without change orders that increase cost. US Army Corps of Engineers is exercising its newly asserted authority for wetlands permit review. Action is threatening to delay approval of the wetlands permit by as much as four months. No work in wetlands can start before the permit is approved. Department is seeking expedited review.
- Pat Demars retired after 32 years as the Maintenance Mechanic at Thompson Hatchery. His last day was May 3rd.
- Staff rebuilt 14 more inside tank valves. Ready to install after Chinook are stocked out this spring.
- Installed replacement surge protection device on incoming power that was blow out by last power surge.

Marquette State Fish Hatchery

Fish Culture

- Crews left for Alaska on 5/1 with a return date of 5/9. They are going to assist Alaska Department of Fish and Game with the Artic Grayling egg take on the Chena River. Eggs will be returned to MSU with Nicole Watson. Picture is from Alaska.
- Fish stocking is going well with all Lower Peninsula plants completed. We expect to complete the Upper Peninsula fish planning by the end of the month.
- Close to half of the splake have been stocked, just started stocking brook trout.
- First vaccinations of fingerlings have started with splake completed; lake trout just started.
- Requested reduced monitoring stipulated in draft NPDES permit during a meeting in Lansing in March. Request rationalized based on data from Thompson monitoring. Still waiting for response to our request for reduced monitoring for formaldehyde, TSS, TP and chlorine/pH.



Maintenance

- Several erroneous alarms related to head box water level and Cherry Creek water levels alarms and a complete alarm system failure caused by a bad card (hardware). On a moment's notice we fixed all the issues.
- Multiple repairs on the 3200 Great Lake fish stocking unit. Newly installed valves are leaking requiring the unit to return to Cadillac Fabrication for repair after stocking season.

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

Surveys

- The Lake Char splashed on April 23 and Lake Superior Lake Trout survey work got underway April 29. The Lake Char will be surveying waters around Isle Royale May 13-20.
- Walleye tagging was completed on Little Bay de Noc April 24-26. Approx 700 walleye were tagged, short of the target of 900.
- Lake Sturgeon rearing operations have prepped and egg collection/tagging will begin as soon as rivers warm to spawning temperature.
- T. Zorn worked with Hammond Bay to complete a laboratory evaluation of walleye imprinting.

Meetings/Training

- E. Baker attended GLFC Lake Committee meetings in Ypsilanti
- S. Sitar presented a research webinar on Lake Trout research in Lake Superior

Office/Lab/Workshop/Building Activities

- Staff have nearly completed winter gear maintenance and net building and are continuing with data entry, fish aging, report writing, etc.
- Zorn, Sitar, and Baker continue to work on data analysis and population models for walleye, lake trout, whitefish, sturgeon, etc., manuscripts for publication, and continue to work on research proposals for various initiatives.
- P.O. was awarded to MCM Marine for haul-out and maintenance of Lake Char. Work will be scheduled for July when there is a lull in survey work.

Personnel

- State Worker was hired and worked with T. Zorn on walleye imprinting project
- Second State Worker was hired and started working May 6

Outreach Activities

- S. Sitar gave a presentation on the offshore fish community in Lake Superior at the Forests for Fish event in Ishpeming.
- S. Sitar spoke to the South Shore Fishing Association about lake trout hooking mortality study results.
- T. Zorn gave a presentation on near-shore fish community sampling at the Lake Superior Fisheries workshop sponsored by Sea Grant

Forest Resources Division: Keith Magnusson, Acting Eastern UP Supervisor

- Field work on the 2021 Year of Entry (YOE) inventory is about half done in the EUP. Unit open house and compartment review schedules are posted online, along with other state forest inventory information at www.michigan.gov/forestry. Click on “public input” to find the open house schedule and an interactive map.
- There are currently about 20 active sales in the EUP. Loggers have been working in spring break up sales with Class A road access. Load limit restrictions have now been lifted.
- During April and May, 20 sales were sold in the EUP for a total of 3,213 acres. One sale went no-bid. In general, there has been a low number of bidders on sales. The open sales in the EUP total 37,156 acres with a value of \$25.3 million.
- Hiawatha National Forest Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) timber sales for 2019 are being prepared and will total approximately 1,300 acres. There are 3 open GNA sales in the EUP; none are currently active. The second EUP GNA sale closed this winter; DNR and USFS staff met on site for an after-action review, concluding that the project went well, and all prescriptions and specifications were met.
- A new Forest Technician started in Newberry and summer forestry students were hired. The EUP District Manager is acting FRD Assistant Chief, the Newberry Unit Manager is acting District Manager, and the EUP Timber Management Specialist is acting Newberry Unit Manager. These acting positions are for 3-6 months.
- Wyman Nursery lifted 3.8 million seedlings this spring, a combination of red pine, jack pine, white pine and white spruce, to re-forest state forest land following harvesting.
- During May a total of 1,697,650 tree seedlings were planted in the EUP; 1,569,150 jack pine and 128,500 red pine. Scarification for natural regeneration after harvest and herbicide spraying will be started soon.
- For Earth Day celebrations, Wyman Nursery donated 5,000 seedlings to the Lansing area, 1,000 seedlings to Holy Name School in Escanaba, and 500 seedlings to Drummond Island School. Rapid River schools received 5,000 seedlings to plant in their school forest as part of the Wheels to Woods grant program. Rapid River High School Forestry Club toured Wyman Nursery, as did 1st and 2nd grade classes from St. Francis de Sales School in Manistique. Students were each able to take a tree seedling home to plant.
- Public Act 288 (PA 288) of 2016 required the DNR to inventory and map all state forest roads by the end of 2018. The mapping and inventory process is an ongoing effort, with reviews being completed on the ground by DNR staff as well as an in-depth review of public comments each year. For more information and maps, see www.michigan.gov/forestroads.
- In the entire UP this year there has been 28 fires for a total of 80.9 acres burned.
- Shingleton conducted a 600-acre prescribed burn to enhance wildlife habitat on the Thompson Plains, Sault had a 210-acre habitat burn on Drummond Island, and Newberry is ready to do a 400-acre habitat burn when conditions are favorable. Several EUP fire qualified staff assisted with prescribed burns in the lower peninsula earlier this spring, gaining valuable experience.
- Many roads throughout the EUP are flooded or in bad condition due to the wet spring and high-water levels. Attempts will be made to repair them as conditions allow.
- Phase 2 of the Giddings Road project has started, and other road project contracts are being prepared.
- Shingleton is planning projects to replace the office siding and repair the garage roof. The new office in the Sault is scheduled to be open this fall.
- Contracts for timber marking and cruising will be bid out early this year so that contractors will be able to take advantage of fall marking weather.
- A land use permit application was received and reviewed for dog sled trails.

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

Five new CO's are now working in the District and are a very welcome addition. Fishing and boating activity is steadily picking up with no lack of things to keep our officers busy.

A couple of reminders to pass on to people. Do not pick up what you may believe to be orphaned animals. Most times their mother is not far away. If the animal remains unattended for an extended period, call the DNR about it, but don't touch the animal yourself. Lastly, a reminder to not burn anything other than brush...it's illegal, bad for the environment and will likely earn you an expensive ticket. Also make sure burning is allowed on that day, get a permit and be prepared to keep it from escaping. Make sure it's completely out when you're done.

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

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 3/23/2019 – 4/6/2019

- **CO Justin Vinson and (Corporal) Cpl. Kevin Postma** responded to a call of an armed suicidal male subject located at the Upper Falls of the Tahquamenon River along with Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers, Luce County Sheriff's Department, and U.S. Border Patrol. The officers secured the scene for over two hours, while local dispatch remained in contact with the male, resulting in the man turning himself over and taken into custody. The subject was transported to a nearby hospital for evaluation.
- While on routine patrol, **COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink** checked two subjects cutting firewood on federal land. When asked if they had a permit, they stated they did but they forgot it in their other truck. It was then determined that one of the subjects had a warrant for failing to appear for an Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) charge last year. The subject was able to post the \$750 bond, released, and given the next available court date.
- **CO Calvin Smith** investigated a carcass dumping complaint in southern Chippewa County where over a dozen road killed deer were dumped in a farmer's hay field. CO Smith interviewed nearby residences and quickly developed a suspect. Contact was made and the suspect confessed to placing the carcasses in the field so he could take pictures of eagles and other raptors. CO Smith addressed the violations of trespass, litter, and possessing road killed deer without a permit. The suspect personally apologized to the farmer and removed the carcasses from the field.
- **Cpl. Jon Busken, CO Calvin Smith and PCO Cole Vanoosten** attended a lecture class at Lake Superior State University and talked to the class regarding the everyday duties of a conservation officer. PCO Vanoosten also presented the class information on the hiring process and what academy life is like for a conservation officer recruit.
- **CO Calvin Smith** was contacted by Chippewa Central Dispatch regarding an injured bald eagle on I-75 that was struck by a vehicle. CO Smith located the eagle that was suffering from a broken wing. The eagle was brought to Chocoley Raptor Center where it can be rehabilitated to be returned to the wild.
- **Cpl. Keven Postma and CO Calvin Smith** were first on scene of vehicle fire at a local gas station in Sault Ste. Marie. The COs used fire extinguishers and pushed the vehicle away from the gas pumps. The COs then secured the area while fire fighters from Soo Township Fire Department arrived to extinguish the fire.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Cole Vanoosten** received a litter dumping complaint in Luce County. The COs located envelopes with addresses leading them to a local home that was for sale. The COs contacted the real estate agent who had hired a person to clean out the house. Contact was made and the suspect denied dumping the garbage on state land but volunteered to clean up the litter. The investigation is ongoing.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol in the Stonington area. CO Butzin observed a vehicle drifting from the center line to the fog line multiple times and onto the gravel shoulder of the road. A traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle and further investigation found the driver to be under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested for operating a motor vehicle with a high blood alcohol content and lodged at the Delta County jail.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was patrolling the Hiawatha National Forest in the northern portion of Delta County. CO Butzin came across two individuals who had become stuck on a forest two track. The two stated they had tried for some time to get the vehicle unstuck but were not having any luck. CO Butzin assisted the two in digging out their vehicle. After a short time, the vehicle was freed and the two were on their way.
- **CO Colton Gelinias** was on patrol in Mackinac County when a two-car personal injury accident occurred on US-2. CO Gelinias was the first law enforcement officer on scene. CO Gelinias checked both victims involved in the accident and requested Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for one victim that complained of neck and back pain. After gathering both victims' personal information, as well as vehicle information, CO Gelinias turned the accident investigation over to an MSP trooper. CO Gelinias remained on scene, assisting the trooper with traffic control. Both victims of the accident were okay, however one vehicle was totaled.
- **COs Colton Gelinias and Justin Vinson** were on patrol in Mackinac County when the COs observed a vehicle with its four-way flashers on. The COs contacted the driver who stated that their vehicle ran out of gas. Being a few miles from the nearest gas station, the COs aided with getting a gas can to the disabled vehicle. The COs put enough gas into the vehicle for it to make its way to the gas station.
- **CO Chris Lynch and PCO Michael Olesen** were on patrol when they observed an ORV doing a wheelie down a state highway without an ORV permit attached. A stop was conducted and contact with the operator was made. The operator recently received a citation for not having his ORV licensed. This time the operator was issued a citation for operating an ORV on a public highway.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 4/7/2019 – 4/20/2019

- **CO Steve Butzin** was following up with an individual who burnt several campers on Little Bay De Noc. The individual was instructed to clean up the litter from burning the campers. The individual failed to clean up the litter before the ice became unsafe. CO Butzin contacted a local towing service to remove the debris from the bay. Another citation was issued to the

individual, this time for littering. CO Butzin also submitted a request for restitution to be paid to the tow service for cleaning up the litter.

- **CO Steve Butzin** was on his way to a training event in Sault Ste Marie, while traveling, he encountered a main highway that was covered with black smoke which reduced visibility for motorists. CO Butzin contacted an individual who was burning several mattresses and a dresser. CO Butzin issued the individual a citation for open burning of prohibited materials, a misdemeanor offense in the State of Michigan.
- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint of an individual trespassing onto another's land to hunt turkeys out of season. Upon further investigation, CO Butzin found that the individual who trespassed onto the property was a tribal member and that the tribal season for turkey was open. However, the land was private, not open to tribal hunting, and he did not have permission to hunt on the land. Furthermore, the landowner had specifically told the individual and his partner they could not hunt on his land which was well posted. Shortly after this the landowner heard a shot and found the subject with a turkey on his property directly behind two no trespassing signs. CO Butzin submitted a report to the Delta County Prosecutors Office requesting charges.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was patrolling Nahma Township for fishing activity. While he was heading to check a popular fishing spot, he observed a vehicle operating on the gravel shoulder of the road and weaving across the center line. A traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle. Further investigation found the driver to be under the influence of alcoholic liquor. The driver was arrested and transported to the Delta County jail. A report was filed with the prosecutor's office for operating a motor vehicle with a high blood alcohol content.
- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint of an individual who was thought to be spearing fish out of season. CO Butzin went to the location and observed an individual wading in the water. CO Butzin made contact and found the individual to be spearing walleye. The individual was cited for possession of a walleye out of season, possession of an illegally taken fish, and using an unlawful method. The walleye and the spear were seized.
- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint of an individual burning household garbage in the Gladstone area. When he arrived at the location, he could smell burning plastic and observed black smoke rising from a fire on the property. CO Butzin contacted the homeowner who admitted to burning the garbage. The homeowner received a citation for open burning prohibited materials which is a misdemeanor offense.
- **CO Michael Evink** conducted a night fish patrol looking for smelting activity. While it was the most activity the CO has seen in years, there were not enough smelt to cause worry of over-limits. CO Evink checked licenses after watching the activity for some time.
- **CO Justin Vinson** and Michigan State Police (MSP) Trooper. J.T. Birkenhauer were called to assist Chippewa County SD involving two missing male subjects believed to be in the Paradise area. The men had been missing since the previous afternoon. Friends and family were becoming concerned about their health. The search had gone on for five hours until Trooper Birkenhauer and CO Vinson located the two men in good health just east of Pretty Lake Campground. Their truck became stuck overnight while attempting to test their new tires. A wrecker service was called to extract their vehicle and they returned home safely.
- While conducting a meat processor inspection, **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** noticed a suspicious intake receipt. The COs conducted a follow up interview with the hunter who confessed to shooting an 8-point buck without a license. The illegal deer was seized, and a report will be submitted to the Delta County Prosecutor's Office.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** attended the Munising High School Seniors vs. Enforcers annual basketball game. The game was to promote and raise money for the upcoming senior's all-nighter event.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** was attending a meeting at the Mathias Township Hall in Trenary, when dispatch advised of a one-car accident and an overdose. CO Zitnik cleared the meeting and was first on scene at the accident. The CO rendered first aid until first responders arrived. The investigation is still ongoing.
- **COs Colton Gelinias and Justin Vinson** participated in Newberry 4-H event held at Tahquamenon Area Schools. The COs had a fishing booth at the event allowing kids to practice their casting skills and win prizes.
- **CO Colton Gelinias** assisted Mackinac County SD with an unresponsive female. With the assistance of local emergency medical technicians, the victim will be able to make a full recovery.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO VanOosten** were on patrol in the Bay Mills area when a call about a domestic in progress was received. The officers responded and were the first on scene. The couple was separated and turned over to Bay Mills tribal officers.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO VanOosten** were patrolling Luce County when they found many vehicles parked at the Dollarville flooding. The officers observed perch anglers for violations before approaching and contacting 52 anglers.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO VanOosten** responded to a complaint of a deer that had no fear of humans. The deer had been reportedly trying to steal a couple's doormat and attacking their dog when it was let out of the house. The officers located the deer and determined that it looked healthy as it ran away with other deer in the area. The officers educated the landowner that the deer may have had a tough winter which has been known to result in such behavior.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO VanOosten** responded to a complaint of a three-legged bear that had been knocking down bird feeders and getting into garbage. The officers instructed the landowners to remove their bird feeders and keep their trash covered in the garage.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 4/21/2019 - 5/4/2019

- **COs Michael Evink and Robert Freeborn** responded to a complaint of road hunting for turkeys. The suspect had left the scene earlier in the day; however, the complainant had taken photos of the truck and the license plate. The COs contacted the suspect the following day. He had turkey parts in the bed of his truck, and they were tagged with his girlfriend's tag. Interviews of those involved were conducted. A report is being submitted and prosecution is being sought for using tag of another and failing to immediately validate and attach kill-tag.
- **CO Evink** was heading home around three in the morning after working fish runs when a vehicle drove through the grass and pulled out in front of him at a snowmobile trailhead. CO Evink conducted a traffic stop and found out the driver was suspended and on probation. CO Evink issued a ticket for driving while suspended, contacted the individual's probation officer, and made sure there was a legal driver contacted to get behind the wheel.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** assisted with an Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) course in Marquette County at the Deerton school. The CO covered ORV laws and explained the proper operation of an ORV. The students and teachers were very happy for the opportunity to become familiar with ORV and laws and operation.
- **CO Zitnik** was traveling down H-58 when he noticed a four-wheeler coming toward him with flat tires and swerving all over the road. The CO conducted a traffic stop and instructed the young rider of his violations and informed him he will need to have proper air in his tires to operate the vehicle. CO Zitnik escorted the young rider back to his residence and spoke with his parents about the incident. The parents were very thankful and happy to handle the situation on their own.
- **CO Zitnik** was speaking with an angler at the mouth of the Rock River after dark when he noticed a vehicle approaching late Sunday evening. Suspicious, the CO hid in the nearby woods and watched the two anglers walk towards the closed section of the stream where steelhead tend to stack up. The CO crawled into position and watched as the husband and wife fished the closed section of the river, using a flashlight to locate the fish. After nearly being stepped on twice, the CO decided to make contact. When CO Zitnik turned his flashlight on and pointed it toward the man, he looked back at his spouse and said, "Will you stop shining that light in my eyes!" Realizing this was the CO's light, the wife responded, "Honey, you are in trouble." The CO then issued a citation for fishing in a closed section of the stream.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink** assisted MSP in bringing them by boat to a remote camp that had been broken into. The COs along with two troopers traveled several miles to the camp. After a brief investigation it was determined the front door window was broken out and the main door ajar. MSP is investigating the situation.
- **COs Freeborn and Evink** participated in their local hunter's safety class. The COs assisted in teaching a portion of the classroom and conducted the field instruction a few days later. All the kids enjoyed the nice weather and the hands-on experience shooting firearms.
- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint of a large pile of building debris being dumped in Ford River Township. The caller recorded a license plate off a pickup truck that was stuck in mud next to the debris. When CO Butzin arrived at the location the debris was still there, but the truck was gone. Further investigation found one suspect to have been littering on state land. The suspect was informed to pick up the debris and provide CO Butzin with a dump receipt. The suspect was also issued a citation for littering.
- **CO Butzin** was patrolling Wells Township when he heard a call from Central Dispatch of a fire nearby. CO Butzin went to the location and observed an individual burning debris without a permit. The wind caught the household debris and the fire spread to a couch and grass nearby. Thankfully, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fire personnel were able to respond and extinguish the fire before it spread further. A citation was issued for burning without a permit. CO Butzin was about to clear the fire when he heard of another fire in Escanaba Township. He responded to the location and found several acres had burned. Thankfully, the Escanaba Township FD was able to contain the fire before it got larger. Further investigation found one individual to be burning building debris; drywall, plastic, glass, and metal. While burning the debris the fire got away from the individual. The individual was issued a citation for open burning prohibited materials and a citation for failing to prevent the spread of fire.
- **COs Colton Gelinis, Justin Vinson, and Mark Zitnik** had received complaints of over-limit of Coho salmon in Alger County. COs Gelinis and Vinson observed a suspect catch eight Coho Salmon when the limit is five. CO Gelinis observed the suspect give three Coho Salmon to another angler. CO Gelinis advised CO Zitnik of the suspects over-limit. CO Zitnik then contacted the angler and issued a citation for over-limit of Coho salmon.
- **CO Gelinis** was on patrol in Mackinac County when a "BE" on the Lookout came across the radio for suspects wanted in a breaking and entering in Schoolcraft County. An MSP trooper identified the vehicle on US-2 and made a traffic stop. CO Gelinis assisted the trooper with the stop. CO Gelinis and the trooper arrested the individual for breaking and entering. CO Gelinis turned over the arrested individual to a trooper out of the Manistique Post who was handling the investigation.
- **CO Calvin Smith and PCO Cole VanOosten** were on patrol checking smelt anglers when they observed a group of three individuals dipping a large quantity of smelt. The officers observed the group before making contact at their vehicle. The group had 21 gallons of smelt in coolers in the back of their vehicle, 15 gallons over the legal limit. A citation was written to one of the anglers for the over-limit of smelt.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 5/5/2019 – 5/18/2019

- **CO Mike Evink** received a complaint of two dirt bikes driving in a careless manner on a state highway. The caller stated the bikes were pulling wheelies on the shoulder of the highway. The caller also gave a good description of the bikes and the drivers' clothes. The description matched a case from the previous year where two bikes fled from and eventually caught by CO Evink. CO Evink was able to locate and contact the bike riders and obtain a confession. A report is being submitted to the prosecutor for appropriate charges.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was patrolling the Gladstone area when he observed a dirt bike traveling down a busy highway. A traffic stop was conducted on the dirt bike operator and further investigation found that the operator was recently released from the Delta County jail on bond for an Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) second offense charge. The operator's driver's license was suspended/revoked and had a bond condition of not operating any motor vehicle. The operator was arrested and lodged in the Delta County jail for operating an ORV while suspended/revoked and for violating bond conditions.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** recently had three different illegal deer cases adjudicated in court. Combined, the cases resulted in \$29,500 in fines and restitution, with each subject getting sentenced to five days in jail, having all hunting privileges revoked until 2025, and each being sentenced to 12 months of probation. Violations included taking one nine-point buck, four eight-point bucks, one seven-point buck without a license, and seven counts of borrowing/loaning kill-tags.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was on patrol when a call came out for a suicidal subject that was going to a local river to drown himself. The call further reported the subject was just involved in a domestic violence incident, left the residence where the incident occurred, and was armed with two long guns. CO Lynch and a sheriff's deputy arrived at the river where the subject was reported to frequent. The officers spotted the subject in a boat on the river. The officers maintained surveillance on the subject until CO Butzin responded to the scene with a boat and another sheriff's deputy. The officers drove out to the subject on the river and made contact. The subject was going through some rough times and was offered the help he needed.
- **COs Calvin Smith and Cole VanOosten** were checking anglers near Dunbar Park in Chippewa County when Central Dispatch reported a subject in cardiac arrest nearby. The officers stopped what they were doing and responded to the scene to assist first responders in providing medical treatment to the individual, among the first responders was DNR Fire Officer Rob Shields. The subject had a pulse and was again breathing when he was transported by ambulance from the scene.

John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer – Marquette

- Recently, the DNR's Marketing, Communications and Media Guidelines were updated, with the revised document now DNR policy, per DNR Director Eichinger. This presents an opportunity for me to remind staff the policy states: **"All television and live radio interview requests must be approved by the employee's supervisor and include a consultation with the PIO before being honored."** In some cases, staffers have decided to relax this provision to grant interviews to media without consulting me first. We need to change this immediately to remain in compliance with DNR policy. I would also extend this to include newspapers.
- It is important that I speak with DNR staff interview subjects prior to interviews to pass on any important messages we may want to communicate to the public through the media, offer tips or other advice and to be aware of interview requests. Please contact me with any media interview requests or questions on the policy and its provisions. Thank you very much.
- My contact information is: John Pepin, 906-226-1236 (Office); 906-250-7260 (Cell) and email: pepinj@michigan.gov

Parks & Recreation Division: Eric Cowing, Eastern Supervisor

Tahquamenon Falls State Park & Newberry Field Office

- Upper Falls Water/Sewer Study: Louie's Well Drilling was the only bid to install a new water well at the Upper Falls.
- Lower Falls Boat Concession/Island Redevelopment Project: Bids for construction were due on 5/29.
- Lower Falls Concession Store Remodel/Replacement Project: Sanders & Czapski held the kick-off meeting for the project in early May. They are currently working on several design concepts.
- Lower Falls Road Seep Project: Working towards 99% design completion. Will be seeking funding for construction in FY 2020.
- County Line Boating Access Site (BAS) & Milakokia Lake BAS Redevelopment Projects: Bids for design are in. The project team will be meeting on June 11th to recommend a successful bidder.
- Whitefish Point Harbor Redevelopment Study: Ongoing.
- Jake Slosson has accepted the full-time ranger position. His previous seasonal ranger position is now vacant.
- The Newberry Field Office Supervisor position remains vacant, pending Civil Service clarification.
- All campgrounds were full for the Memorial weekend holiday. Day-use was very busy but slightly lower than 2018.
- Tahquamenon Falls State Park applied for and was granted an Americorps NCCC crew out of Iowa to spend 8 weeks repairing and upgrading our famous "river" trail between the Upper & Lower Falls. These 10 individuals come from very diverse backgrounds from all over the United States. They arrived on May 6th and will depart on June 27th.

Muskallonge Lake State Park

- Contractors are on site and the electrical upgrades to sections 1 and 3 of the campground are in progress. Construction is on schedule with an anticipated completion of mid-July.
- Seasonal summer staff has been hired. There is currently one vacant short-term worker position.
- The Memorial holiday weekend was busy at Muskallonge Lake and surrounding state forest campgrounds. Day-use and ORV activity has been comparatively high.

Fayette Historic State Park

- Townsite: Finished reconstruction of rear Doctor's House porch. Began reconstruction of Doctor's House front porch – waiting for special order lumber. Open for season May 11th.



- Campground: Seasonal opening of toilet/shower building, mulch and blow leaves. General preparation for use season. Open for season May 4th. Continue having issues recruiting quality state workers. Memorial Day weekend numbers compared favorably with the past three years. 2019: 163 camps – Friday-Sunday nights. 2018: 115 camps – Friday-Sunday nights. 2017: 119 camps – Friday-Sunday nights. 2016: 86 camps – Friday-Sunday nights. 3-year average (2016-18) - 107 camps – Friday-Sunday nights. An increase of 52%! Usual start of the season issues – nothing we can't handle.

Indian Lake/Palms Book State Parks

- The garage siding, soffit project at Palms Book has been completed. Re-roofed the park office/headquarters at the South Unit.
- Our seasonal rangers & some of our STW's have been recalled for the season. It's getting tougher & tougher to find enough STW's for the summer.
- Camping for Memorial Day week was up 3%, Palms Book attendance was +20%.
- The increased attendance at Palms Book is causing issues with the operation of the raft resulting in having to have an additional employee to make sure the raft doesn't get overloaded and to see that the raft gets over & back in a timely manner. At times the wait to get on the raft is 1-1.5 hrs. Parking is also becoming an issue.
- The high-water levels have resulted in the temporary closure of 6 campsites & caused erosion damage at the South Unit campground. We also lost a lot of shoreline at the West Unit picnic area.
- We continue to have problems with the well at the South Gemini Lake State Campground.

Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island

- Detour Village BAS break wall project is at 90% design, with 100% design documents expected soon.
- Lime Island Harbor upgrade Project: Consultant scheduled borings at the end of May.
- Brimley toilet/shower building replacement project had the consultant pre-bid meeting on May 17th. Approximately 6 different consultants were in attendance.
- Raber Cabin Demo started on May 28th.
- STW hiring is complete for Brimley. Detour State Harbor is still accepting applications and having issues finding candidates.
- Brimley had 387 camps for the week. The campground was just over half full on the Saturday of the holiday weekend. Attendance was comparable to 2018.
- State forest campgrounds and BAS sites have seen average use with campers and fishermen.
- Detour State Harbor has had about half of the seasonal slip holders show up.
- Lime Island RA opens for the season on June 3rd.
- With all the rain in May, the Brimley campground has had many soggy sites. Park staff have been making repairs to the old stormwater catch basins which are failing.
- The east toilet building water shutoff was leaking and was replaced.
- Lime Island management plan is moving towards completion. The 5th meeting was held on April 29th, with the public meeting to be held on July 25th.

- Detour staff have been busy trying to get Lime Island open with limited STW staff.
- Still waiting for the playground company to return and finish/make repairs to the playscape at Brimley State Park.

Straits State Park & Mackinac Island Harbor

- 50% plan review was held for toilet shower buildings on Mackinac Island.
- Pre-bid meeting was held to hire consultant for replacement of 2 toilet shower buildings at Straits State Park.
- Final meeting prior to open house was held with consultant conducting a planning study for Father Marquette memorial site.
- Still need some summer staff on Mackinac Island.
- Had over 200 camps for Memorial weekend. Up 5% over last year.
- High lake waters caused the handicap dock on the island to be underwater. Staff are adding on piggyback.
- Tremendous amounts of spring rain have made grounds wet and muddy. Staff will have to continue fixing up sites after Memorial weekend.
- Hiring a complete summer staff is difficult and hard to accomplish.

Trails Section Unit Report – East UP

Rail-Trail Projects

- Doty Bridge on the Coalwood grade by Wetmore updated estimate for construction is \$800,000. In a hold mode waiting on the Supplemental approval to move forward with construction bidding.
- Ashmun Bay Trailhead to 12th Street in the Sault is closed until further notice, approximately 1 mile. Excessive water has caused sink holes and too wet for heavy equipment to repair.

Snowmobile Trail Updates

- Season was good, trail counters indicate fewer snowmobilers this year, likely because there was snow across the region.
- Working with law enforcement to develop safety program called “Ride Right”. Done a lot of website and internet work this past season and planning to do placemats for next year.
- Ride Right messages are: Slow down, ride sober, be aware of groomers, and ride home safe to family and friends.

ORV Trail Updates

- ORV route from Moran to Detour, Les Cheneaux Snowmobile Club is working on the signing (99 miles).
- ORV grant sponsors have begun maintenance of trails.
- ORV trail “where can we ride” and trip planning questions are increasing.
- Nearly 200 miles are being added to the ORV trail system in the UP.

Equestrian Trail Projects: No activity

- Little Brevort Lake Equestrian State Forest Campground proposal has begun its approval process.
- UP Trail Horse Association is signing the Headquarters Lake Equestrian Trail.

Pathway Projects

- Algonquin Ski Trail/Pathway had positive comments about the timber sale. The removal of some of the trees exposes the large white pines and provides new viewing vistas along the trail. Kudos to the Forestry staff.
- North Country Trails Association received an Iron Bell Grant to complete construction of a bridge at the mouth of Blind Sucker River.
- North Country Trails have several projects funded in the Tahquamenon Falls area.

Event/Use Permits

- Jeep End event was issued for July 26th on Drummond Island.
- Jeep Jamboree Event will be June 14th and 15th.

General

- Lots of water on trails from spring rains, runoff and is causing issues to show up as well as delaying some attempts to start construction projects.
- Sunken Lakes Bridges (2), contractor is beginning construction this weekend.