Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council
DNR Division Reports
Date of Production: May 2019

This documentation is provided by Michigan DNR staff as a supplement to verbal reports that will be distributed to the Western UPCAC at the May 22, 2019 meeting in Houghton, MI.

Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator Update – Stacy Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator

DNR Public Meetings
May 1 UP Sportsperson’s Coalition Meeting, Great Lakes Sportsman’s Club–Escanaba, 6:00pm
May 2 UP Sportsperson’s Coalition Meeting, DNR Shingleton Office, 6:00pm
May 4 U.P. DNR Listening Session (Regarding Proposed Deer Baiting/Feeding Regulation), Community Club, Hermansville, 9–11am CDT
May 9 Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing
May 22 U.P. DNR Listening Session (Regarding Proposed Deer Baiting/Feeding Regulation), MTU Memorial Union Building–Ballroom A, Houghton, 2–4pm
May 22 Western UP Citizen’s Advisory Council Meeting, Houghton, 5:30pm
June 10 U.P. DNR Listening Session (Regarding Proposed Deer Baiting/Feeding Regulation), Island Convention Center–Harris, 2–4pm
June 10 Eastern UP Citizen’s Advisory Council Meeting, Wetmore, 6:00pm
June 12 UP Sportsperson’s Coalition Meeting, DNR Marquette Office, 6:00pm
June 13 Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Detroit

U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities
May 18 Tahquamenon Falls State Park – National Kids to Parks Day Hike
May 19 Michigan Iron Industry Museum – Museum Open House (Negaunee)
June 7 ORV Instructor Academy – Escanaba (Contact 989–619–3784 for more information)
June 8–9 Free ORV Weekend
June 15 Fayette Historic State Park – Christmas in June
June 15 Wells State Park – Crafty Campers Arts and Crafts Sale
June 16 Michigan Iron Industry Museum– Iron, Steel and the Automobile
June 21 Van Riper State Park– Archery 101

Season Dates & Reminders
May 1 May apply for Bear and Elk hunts; Fur Harvester licenses go on sale
May 1 Can obtain Kill Tags for Otter, Bobcat, Marten, and Fisher (Residents Only)
May 1 Deadline for returning Incidental trapping seals to DNR
May 3 Last day to register Otter from U.P. trout streams – see digest for April deadlines
May 15 Walleye and Pike open in U.P. inland / U.P. Great Lakes / St. Mary’s River
May 25 Bass Opener (Catch and Keep Season)
May 25 Frog, Toad, Salamander/Mudpuppy seasons open (until 11/15)
May 31 Hand Net & Dip Net seasons close
**Recent DNR Press Releases**

For full details, go to: [www.michigan.gov/dnrpressroom](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)
- Public comment opportunities available on DNR recommended deer regulation changes (4/29/19)
- Upcoming DNR meetings, plus chance to comment on deer baiting/feeding regulations (4/26/19)
- Fishing openers, Trout Trails, Iron Belle Challenge & more (4/22/19)
- Showcasing the DNR: Auto industry drives state parks development (4/18/19)

**Grant Contacts**

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

**Eastern UPCAC Update**

The Eastern UP Citizen’s Advisory Council Meeting met on April 15th in Newberry. Old Business included a continued update on CWD and the UP CWD Taskforce. New Business included a presentation on the Good Neighbor Authority, Snowmobile Season Summary and Update form Council Member Jim Duke (representing the Michigan Snowmobile Assn), Public Act 680 of 2018 (Changes to the Michigan ATV/UTV Law), Deer Camp Survey Summary, and a review of the DNR response to one resolution—support for a proposed youth bear hunt (which was not supported by the DNR). Subcommittee reports were also provided, including a cormorant update and review of two Senate bills 31 and 37. The next EUPCAC meeting will be held on June 10th in Wetmore.
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.

Committee meetings during the day:

**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.
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

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.

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

**Fisheries Division: George Madison, Western Lake Superior Management Unit**

The following are the western Upper Peninsula fisheries division highlights for the period of March 21, 2019 through May 21, 2019.

**Escanaba Field Office (Darren Kramer)**
- Coffee & Conversation, Iron Mountain
- Gave a presentation about careers in fisheries for the Forest Park School’s Career Day
- Attended the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition bi-monthly board meeting
- Gave a presentation on freshwater mussels for Bay West Community College’s “Community Voices” series
- Attended the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society’s bi-annual conference
- Fisheries surveys
- Participated in Michigan’s Mussel Group focusing on survey protocols and development of a Michigan Mussel Management Strategy.
- Attended the Mineral Lease Parcel Classification Training
- Sturgeon Lift Operation is currently happening
- Ask the DNR

**Baraga Customer Service Center (George Madison)**
- Torch Lake (Houghton County) Summit with the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes, on working towards the delisting of this EPA Area of Concern.
- Three Coffee and Conversations meetings; Ironwood, Ishpeming, Houghton.
- Lots of public inquiries, steelhead, smelt, walleye, brook trout.
- Michigan DNR Fisheries was awarded a $25,000 grant from the UPPCO Bond Falls Mitigation and Enhancement fund. This money will be used for contracting to have engineering plans developed for opening the Ontonagon River estuary by removing a headwall dam. The removal of the dam will allow for a footbridge and usage of the Ontonagon river island and improving public use of this island.
- Attended the Parks Division Porcupine Mountain Management Plan stakeholder meeting was held on April 16th. A full public meeting to review the draft plan will be scheduled for September

**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 cooler 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: Tom Seablom, Western UP District Supervisor

- Tom Seablom has been promoted to the WUP District Supervisor. Tom was previously the Gwinn Unit Manager. The Gwinn Unit Manager position is currently vacant and in the process of being filled by late May to early June.

- Units are working on the 2021 YOE (Year of Entry) Inventory. Open House and Compartment Review schedules are posted online, along with other state forest inventory information at: Michigan.gov/ForestInput. The next WUP Open Houses are for the Baraga and Escanaba Units on June 19th and August 21st respectively.

- As of May 9th, 336 timber sale contracts are open WUP-wide. This represents 751,776 cords of timber on 44,761 acres, valued at approximately $36.9 million.

- 2 out of 4 WUP units report 12 Active Timber Sales totaling about 1,163 acres. Active sale work is typically low this time of year due to road restrictions. Units report very low demand for sales on winter ground, and higher interest in summer ground sales. Units are starting to see some “no bid” sales. Sawtimber sales remain stable.

- Forest protection staff report that the due to the wet and cold weather the spring fire season has been mild so far. Since the beginning of April there have been 16 wildfires totaling 24.6 acres. As the field grasses green-up fire activity will moderate.

- This is the time frame that most large fires in the jack pine plains burn. Staff will continue to monitor the needle moistures in the pines. As the moisture levels drop the conifer fuel types will remain susceptible to ignition sources. Estimated time frame for the rebounding of fuel moisture in the pine is usually right around the first few weeks in June.

- Three prescribed fires have been conducted in the WUP on approximately 575 acres. Prescribes fires are used primarily to promote wildlife habitat.

- Open enrollment for the Commercial Forest Program closed on April 1st. The WUP received 26 application for new enrollments in the Commercial Forest Program totaling 3,035 acres. For more information on how the Commercial Forest Program provides additional opportunities to Hunt and Fish on private land go to Michigan.Gov/Commercialforest
A “Forests for Fish – Lake Superior Food Web – Inputs and Depths” talk was held on April 16th at the River Rock lanes and Banquet Center in Ishpeming. 130 members of the public attended. For more information on the Forests for Fish program Go to www.forestsforfish.org.

Spring tree planting is in full swing. A total of about 700 acres are scheduled to be planted over the next few weeks.

**Wildlife Division: Terry Minzey, Wildlife Supervisor (prepared by John DePue, Wildlife Biologist)**

- **Bats**: The bat population at sites surveyed this past winter are down 89% from pre-white-nose syndrome numbers. However, there are several hibernacula where the populations have stabilized. The Department continues to work with researchers to develop a method to mitigate the impacts from the disease WNS.

- **Deer**: Based on the deer movement study and the predator-prey project the cumulative winter (January 1-May 10) mortality rate was 15%. Winter deer survival was higher in 2019 than the 2018 winter.

- **Surveys**: Spring adult deer to fawn surveys are just wrapping up in the U.P. Woodcock surveys are taking place across the U.P. Sharp-tailed grouse surveys are finishing up in the East U.P.

- **Habitat**: The Sturgeon River Sloughs Wildlife Management Area in Arnhiem is undergoing an infrastructure improvement project: replacing old diesel pumps with a new electric pump, improving water supply, and building berms to able to flood farmed field annually. These improvements will greatly improve habitat for all wetland associated wildlife and improve hunting opportunities for waterfowl hunters. We anticipate the construction will be completed by the fall waterfowl hunting season. Planting of hard mast trees and shrubs, soft mast trees and shrubs and cover trees for wildlife are taking place in earnest around the west UP. A prescribed burn was conducted on 62 acres at the AuTrain wildlife refuge to improve habitat at the site.

- **Bears**: The bear, wolf and cougar specialist position is currently in the process of being filled. Final bear regulation changes:
  - **Upper Peninsula license quota for 2019 and 2020**:
    - Amasa BMU: a total of 490 licenses for the three hunt periods; a decrease of 40 licenses from 2018.
    - Baraga BMU: a total of 1,550 licenses for the three hunt periods; an increase of 60 licenses from 2018.
    - Bergland BMU: a total of 1,195 licenses for the three hunt periods; a decrease of 15 licenses from 2018.
    - Carney BMU: a total of 600 licenses for the three hunt periods; a decrease of 15 licenses from 2018.
    - Gwinn BMU: a total of 1,060 licenses for the three hunt periods; a decrease of 145 licenses from 2018. The Tribal allocated harvest is 17 bears.
    - Newberry BMU: a total of 1,110 licenses for the three hunt periods; a decrease of 20 licenses from 2018. The Tribal allocated harvest is 37 bears.
    - Drummond Island BMU: a total of 5 licenses; no change from 2018. The Tribal allocated harvest is 1 bear.
    - These license allocations are intended to achieve a total desired state-licensed harvest of 1,180 bears for the UP Region, which is a decrease of 20 bears from the desired harvest in 2018.
  - **Implement concurrent season openers in all Upper Peninsula Bear Management Units (Note: All bear hunting with hounds will now begin on the same day in Michigan)**
    - The dates are:
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<th>Hunt Period</th>
<th>Open Season 2019</th>
<th>Open Season 2020</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>September 11 to October 21</td>
<td>September 9 to October 21</td>
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<td>September 16 to October 26</td>
<td>September 14 to October 26</td>
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- The first five days of the first hunt period would remain bait-only hunting (hunting bears with dogs would start the Monday following the 2nd Saturday in September) and during hunt periods two and three, as well as the remainder of the first hunt period, both bait and dogs would be permitted.
- In addition, the Department will recommend that the Liberty Hunt be moved to the 2nd weekend in September during the 2019 deer regulations cycle.

- **Implement concurrent season openers in all Northern Lower Peninsula Bear Management Units (Note: All bear hunting with hounds will now begin on the same day in Michigan)**
  - All NLP bear seasons open the Sunday following the 2nd Saturday in September. The proposed dates for 2019 are September 15 to September 23 and the proposed dates for 2020 are September 13 to September 21.
  - The first day of the season would remain open to bait-only hunting (hunting bears with dogs would start the Monday following the 2nd Saturday in September) and the last two days would remain bear hunting only with dogs. The season will remain nine days.
  - In addition, the Department will recommend that the Liberty Hunt be moved to the 2nd weekend in September during the 2019 deer regulations cycle.

- **Limit the maximum hole diameter in barrels used on private lands to one inch.**
- **Allow the use of barrels for baiting on Department owned lands**
  - Implement a minimum size restriction of 33 gallons and ensure bait barrels are steel.
  - Limit the number of bait barrels to one per station.
  - Require hunters to affix a tag with either their Michigan driver’s license number of DNR sportscard number to barrels.
  - Require that bait barrels be securely anchored to a post in the ground with a chain or cable no more than eight feet in length.
  - Bait barrels must have a secure lid and no more than three open holes no greater than one inch in diameter.
  - Limit bait barrel locations to only within 100 yards of a state forest road.
  - Two-year sunset clause.
- ** Allow non-residents to dog train in Michigan in the Amasa, Bergland and Carney BMUs.**
  - This will be evaluated in 2 years
- **Baldwin North Bear Management Unit has been eliminated based on field recommendation**
- **Northern Lower Peninsula license quota for 2019 and 2020:**
  - Red Oak BMU: a total of 700 state licenses; no change from 2018. The Tribal allocated harvest is 35 bears.
  - Baldwin BMU: a total of 260 licenses; an increase of 105 licenses from 2018. The Tribal allocated harvest is 19 bears.
  - Gladwin BMU: a total of 110 licenses; an increase of 10 licenses from 2018. The Tribal allocated harvest is 2 bears.
  - These license allocation recommendations are intended to achieve a total desired state-licensed harvest of 400 bears for the NLP Region, which is an increase of 45 bears from the desired harvest in 2018.

**Law Enforcement Division (LED): Lt. Ryan Aho, District 1 Law Supervisor**
District 1 is anticipating the arrival of four new conservation officers. These officers have successfully completed the DNR recruit school and are currently in the field training process. Dickinson and Iron Counties are both slated to receive a new officer. Ontonagon County is slated to receive two officers.

- **COs Cody Smith and John Kamps** were observing fishermen on Keweenaw Bay near L’Anse when they noticed an angler with a stringer full of fish. The COs watched as the subject had an over-limit of trout and salmon and handed several fish off to another fisherman on the bay. Contact was made with both fishermen and a confession was obtained for catching and keeping an over-limit of trout and salmon. A citation was issued for possessing an over-limit of salmon.
- CO John Kamps checked a boat returning from Lake Superior in Marquette. The small boat had been out in one to two-foot waves with large chunks of ice floating nearby. A check revealed the boat did not have any Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) for the passengers onboard. A ticket was issued for no PFDs on the vessel.

- CO John Kamps was driving through a residential area when he noticed a subject standing at the tailgate of his truck. The subject threw what appeared to be a fish farther into the bed of the truck when he noticed the CO. CO Kamps stopped to investigate the suspicious activity and questioned the subject who was holding a fillet knife and had blood on his hands. After several denials, it was soon discovered the subject was in the process of cleaning two salmon and one brown trout. The subject admitted to catching the fish but did not have a Michigan fishing license. The subject was issued a ticket for possessing fish without a license.

- CO John Kamps responded to a call of an assault that just occurred in Gwinn. CO Kamps arrived on scene along with a Forsyth detective and they entered the residence to find a female subject with a gunshot wound. CO Kamps assisted local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) administer first aid to the victim before she was transported to the hospital. The initial report indicated a subject dressed in black had fled the scene through a window and officers scoured the area attempting to locate the suspect. Further investigation gave conflicting information as to the cause of the gunshot wound. The investigation is ongoing by local Forsyth Police Department.

- CO Josh Boudreaux patrolled Lake Independence on April 1st following the deadline for shanty removal. CO Boudreaux located large quantities of garbage and debris left by various anglers’ shanties. CO Boudreaux contacted one angler at his residence who had simply cut the top from his shanty, leaving chairs, fishing equipment, and other odds and ends frozen into the ice. CO Boudreaux explained that the shanty next to his, which had been frozen under nearly 14 inches of ice, was removed by the deadline without issue leaving no excuses. Multiple shanty owners were contacted with several citations issued for litter. Charges are pending for several subjects for fail to remove shack by April 1st.

- CO Brian Lasane had a jury trial in Ontonagon County regarding a hunter that had shot an eight-point buck during the 2018 firearm deer season and had failed to purchase a deer license. The defendant stated he did not believe he should be required to buy a deer license to hunt on his own land. After a short deliberation, the jury found the defendant guilty of the charges.

- CO Jenni Hanson received information of possible illegal turkey baiting activity prior to the opening day of turkey season in Gogebic County. CO Zach Painter and Corporal (Cpl.) Dave Painter worked the complaint and located a blind with several kernels of corn on the ground and decoys in an area that had been scratched up by turkeys. The next morning, the two officers returned to find a subject hunting over a large amount of corn and using an electronic turkey call. Citations were issued for hunting turkey over bait and using an electronic turkey call.

- CO Jeremy Sergey responded to a capsized vessel in the Menominee River below the first dam. There were two individuals who went into the water. The Marinette Fire Department (FD) pulled one individual out of the water, but the second individual was not located. CO Sergey conducted search patterns along the river with Menominee City Police Officer Mitch McRae. The next day CO Jared Ferguson and PCO Anna Viau joined the search. Several other local and state agencies were also involved in the search as well as the U.S. Coast Guard.

- CO Jenni Hanson and Michigan State Police (MSP) Trooper Logan White responded to a complaint in northern Ontonagon County. While leaving the complaint area, the officers observed a vehicle traveling down the roadway swerving from one side of the road to the other. At one point the head lights were turned off, leaving only the fog lights on. A moment later the headlights came back on. CO Hanson and Trooper White contacted the driver. After performing Standard Field Sobriety Tests, CO Hanson arrested the driver for operating while intoxicated. The driver was lodged at the Ontonagon County jail.

Public Information Office: John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer

- Administration of the U.P. DNR Twitter feed has recently been transferred from Lansing to my desk in Marquette. Visit the feed to see videos, photos and the latest DNR Upper Peninsula developments. Send any relevant items for Twitter on programs, events, photos, activities to me for posting at pepinj@michigan.gov.

- “Ask the DNR” returns to WNNU-TV13 at 8 p.m. EDT May 16 for the final broadcast of the 2018-2019 broadcast season. The show will return in the fall.
Parks & Recreation Division: Doug Rich, WUP District Supervisor

State Park/Recreation Area/Scenic Site/Forest Rec Units

- **Baraga State Park**: The Park is busy preparing for the upcoming electrical upgrade and opening the campground and day use for Friday, May 3rd. Big Erick’s Bridge State Forest Campground was opened in April for spring fishing and has been busy.

- **Bewabic State Park**: Campground was closed for the months of March and April. Supervisor passed DEQ wastewater test and is A-1g certified. Rangers Dylan Worple and Brittany Sides returned to work in March. Brittany Sides graduated from the Operations Academy. Bewabic received a new bobcat utility vehicle, very nice machine!

- **Bond Falls Scenic Site**: Was monitored for heavy spring runoff. Water was going through UPPCO’s hydroelectric dam at 1200 cfm. The water was flooding over the trail and stairway at a heavy rate. Aside from all the gravel being washed off the trail, the site held up well under the deluge. After the runoff and spring melt, the site was opened at the end of April.

- **Craig Lake State Park**: Road into Keewaydin Lake Yurt /BAS has flooded over with the spring melt and has begun washing out. Road is currently impassible to vehicular traffic due to the snowfall, so measurements and planning has begun only conceptually. Work will be completed by the Escanaba Construction Crew as soon as it accessible. Staff hauled in more firewood to the yurts for the end of the winter season.

- **Fort Wilkins Historic State Park**: Pretty quiet, with a few cabin rentals.

- **Lake Gogebic State Park**: Prepared for opening in May, worked on office/shop renovations for new positions and summer hiring.

- **McLain State Park**: Fair to good cabin numbers for this time of year. MJO has continued to work on phase 2 and the park is in design phase in phase 3.

- **Menominee State Recreation Area**: Still closed for the season (March/April).

- **Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park**: M107 to Lake of the Clouds is open. Presque Isle campground and day-use areas are fully open. Ski hill remained open until April 7th with another season of good attendance numbers. Held the stakeholders meeting for the general management plan with about 50 in attendance. M 107 seeing a lot of shoreline erosion due to a few spring storms with sustained north winds. Begun a ditching/ drainage project at the Union Bay Campground.

- **Twin Lakes State Park**: Spring has been slow, with lots of snow this winter. Weather over the last few weeks has slowed our usual melting. Only one lodge rental over the last two months. Have started on the lodge renovation and all is going well, should be ready by early June and have a new safe winter entrance.

- **Van Riper State Park**: March Lantern Light Snowshoe was again a success, seeing around 83 visitors/participants for the event. Progress meetings have been held to finish wrapping up the final construction of the Water Treatment Building upgrades, funded through capital outlay. The building has been operating normally for most of the winter and is in the final stages of water quality testing and approvals to provide potable water to the staff and public. Accounting Assistant Melanie Brand has been involved with many marketing meetings to plan for the Centennial celebrations this year. Meetings have been almost weekly to help keep the enthusiasm going and keep staff up to date on coming events. Concessionaires of Water Warrior Island stopped by to check in and let staff know what their plan was for getting the concession ready for the season. Continuous meetings have been held with the Friends of Van Riper and Craig Lake State Parks regarding both the installation of the pump track in early May and the operation and opening of the laundry facility here at the Van Riper. Installation date for the pump track has been set for May 3rd and 4th, 2019. Van Riper has started the process of interviewing and hiring staff for the summer.

- **Wells State Park**: Campground opening was delayed 3 weeks from the April opening date snow and wet sites. Replacement of day use culvert at Wells.

- **Baraga Field Office**: Worked on snow removal and opening Big Erick’s Bridge.

- **Escanaba Field Office**: Helped with the culvert replacement at Wells.

**Boating Reports (BAS = Boating Access Sites)**

- **McLain State Park**: South Portage Entry skid pier is back in for the season.

- **Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park**: Union Bay boat launch has been seeing steady use with good spring fishing.

- **Twin Lakes State Park**: Baraga’s construction crew has been working on the park lodge project.
- **Van Riper State Park**: Waterways assessment was completed for our unit, including 4 of the locations that we manage.
- **Baraga Field Office**: Worked on equipment maintenance and pushing in courtesy piers at BAS Sites.
- **Cedar River State Harbor**: Menominee BAS site cleanup from the winter weather/storms. Repaired the skid pier/transition plate was stolen.
- **Copper Harbor State Harbor**: Copper Harbor Marina seawall bin wall moving to phase 500. Initial planning meeting for Eagle Harbor Marina upgrade occurred.
- **Escanaba Field Office**: Repaired some skid piers, ditched east bass lake, and made a assess road to the building at the Escanaba shop.

**Personnel News, Vacancies/Hires, Recognition**
- **Baraga State Park**: Seasonal rangers completed operations academies and law academy and are back working for the season. Some summer workers are on for the season.
- **Fort Wilkins Historic State Park**: Bob Wild started as Park Supervisor in April.
- **McLain State Park**: Summer workers have been interviewed, hired and some have started at the end of April most will start in May.
- **Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park**: Park interpreter Bob Wild left Porkies and is now the Supervisor at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.
- **Van Riper State Park**: Ranger Kyle Loup attended and successfully completed the PRD Law Enforcement Academy in April. He now holds his Law Enforcement Commission and will be a huge asset to enforcement at the unit. New Unit Supervisor Debra Gill was officially hired at the end of March after working out of class in that position since June 2018.
- **Escanaba Field Office**: Kari Diffenderfer transferred to the Escanaba Office as a secretary.

**Other Issues, Challenges or Items of Note**
- **Baraga State Park, Fort Wilkins, and J.W. Wells State Parks**: Summer worker hiring has been very challenging. Hiring processes started in February and multiple techniques were employed, but we still have four vacant positions and no new applicants.

**Multi-Use Trails**
- **Baraga-Arnheim rail grade** will have 4 culverts replaced/repairs including a culvert under the Little Carp Trestle that will stabilize the banks and protect the trestle structure.
- **The Menominee River Bridge in Iron Mountain** has received the final funding and the joint Michigan-Wisconsin project will most likely go out for bid mid-summer this year.
- **Twin Lakes State Park**: Met with both ORV and snowmobile trail groups over the last two months. Both local groups are working on projects together.
- **Van Riper State Park**: Staff from PRD, Trails, Wildlife and FRD met to discuss trail development and the current proposal for the Little Presque Isle Tract. All agreed that if we were creating new trail that we could eradicate some of the duplicate trails. Trails staff completed updating the map and all parties were pleased with the outcome, along with the Friends group from Little Presque Isle.

**ORV Trails**
- **MI-TRALE** received a grant for the bridge replacement over the West Branch of the Ontonagon River in Bergland. The project has been bid out and will be completed this year. Once installed this will provide a connection between the Sidnaw to Bergland and the Pioneer Trail utilizing public lands and keeping ORV use off of M-28.
- **ORV** pre-season meeting was held on April 23rd at the Konteka Lodge in White Pine. All five sponsors were in attendance as well as John Matonich representing MTAC. A new sponsor (Gogebic Range Trail Authority - GRTA) was introduced and will be working on trails in western Gogebic County.
- Snowmelt has occurred in all but the far northern sections and spring runoff concerns have created minimal impacts to date. Clubs have begun there spring maintenance runs in many areas.
- Trail conditions still are not open at Twin Lakes State Park, and snow drifted areas are hindering spring ORV traffic. Those ORV's that are riding the trails are doing a considerable damage to the wet conditions of the trails. Forest Management and Parks combined to do a culvert washout repair to the Bill Nicholls north of the park during the
week of May 5 to the 11. Parks hauled the fill material and FRD did the backhoe work; thanks to Greg Tarnowski for his work on the project. The Nicholls Trail was reopened in less than 2 days.

**Snowmobile Trails**
- Snowmobile season ended on March 31st and riders had some of the best conditions available due to the ample snowfall the UP received this year.
- **Baraga State Park:** Trail is now closed for the season.
- **Craig Lake State Park:** Snowmobile trail access through Craig Lake was successful again this season. No known issues with yurt visitors/snowmobile traffic.
- **Twin Lakes State Park:** Meet with trail group each month.
- **Van Riper State Park:** Snowmobile season came to a close and staff is finishing up club paperwork. This season went very well with a range having the opportunity to work alongside trails staff to handle club paperwork and issues.

**Equestrian Trails**
- **Twin Lakes State Park:** Still working with the Equestrian group from Mi-TRALE, the group is still interested in the Pike lake BAS area for riding and a possible campground. Brad Carlson FRD Unit Manager sent a new use permit to the group for the 2019 season.
- **Van Riper State Park:** Staff sat down with trails staff and discussed the current trail proposal for Thunder Valley and the trail expansion happening there. All agreed with layout and width. If time and other projects allow, Van Riper staff is planning to assist trails staff in getting the new trail marked so it can be cut open.

**Pathways**
- Copper Harbor Trails Club has submitted a proposal to construct another 4 miles of bike trail which would take the Keweenaw Point Trail off a section of poor road and provide high quality bike trail.
- **Van Riper State Park:** Ski season at Blueberry Ridge also came to a quick end. Warm temperatures mixed with rain made the trails icy and ended the grooming season early there. Equipment is being scheduled for servicing for next season. Use numbers were up again and with that, staff has had ongoing discussions with the Friends group there about expanding parking for next season.

**Planning Report**
- **McLain SP:** Phase 1 design and construction is 100%. Phase 1 included a new toilet shower building, a new campground loop with 20 modern campsites (20/30/ and some 50-amp electric) and a new campground circulation road.
- **McLain SP:** Phase 2 design is 100% complete and began construction on August 1, 2018. Phase 2 includes a new State Park entrance road and contact station, 16 modern campsites, and a renovated day use and beach area on the west end of the park. Construction is approximately 65% complete. Construction is proposed to be completed by June 28, 2019.
- **McLain SP:** Shoreline armoring is 100% complete. The installation of 1,140’ of shoreline armoring is complete. The shoreline armoring is intended to provide protection to a portion of McLain State Park shoreline that is infrastructure heavy (electric, water, and sewer lines, campsites, and primary access road serving 91 campsites).
- **Bergland Boating Access Site:** Parking lot, dock, and ADA site improvements completed August 1, 2016. Additional asphalt paving and site lighting improvements were proposed for fall of 2017 or spring/early summer of 2018. The project has been bid out. Payne and Dolan has been awarded a contract for construction. Construction began September 9, 2018 and the sight lighting improvements are complete. Asphalt paving improvements have been delayed until 2019 due to an operator’s engineer’s labor dispute.
- **Copper Harbor:** Design of masonry repairs to the Copper Harbor historic lighthouse and light keepers’ residence are underway. $50,000.00 allocated. Design is 95% complete. $200,000 in construction funding has been provided for construction in 2019.
- **Escanaba Field Office:** A new 50’ x 100’ cold storage building has been constructed at the Escanaba Field Office to support PRD's major maintenance crew and equipment. Design and construction are 100% complete.
- **Eagle Harbor State Harbor:** Engineering, analysis, and design of improvements at the Eagle Harbor State Harbor is proposed in 2019. Improvements to the site utilities, mooring facility, and harbor master building are being considered. A design contract was awarded to Edgewater Resources. The data collection of existing site conditions
is underway. The analysis of potential of design improvements is 90% complete, a public meeting will be scheduled for this summer. A total of $825,000 has been allocated for design and construction.

- **Van Riper State Park**: Upgrades to the water treatment plant and water supply systems - $175,000.00 has been allocated for design and construction. Design is 100% complete. The construction of the project is now 100% complete.

- **Baraga State Park**: Upgrades to the campground electrical and wet well has received design funding - A Design contract has been awarded to UPEA; design is 100% complete. $1,200,000 has been awarded for construction in 2019. Construction is anticipated to begin on 5/13/2019.

- **Oman Creek Boating Access Site** -
  - Interim planning: A stakeholder workgroup meeting was held at the Little Girl’s County Park lodge on October 17, 2017. The DNR engaged stakeholders in a problem-solving exercise for developing solutions to address immediate operation concerns at the site. The DNR and the stakeholders agreed to implement 3 solutions:
    1. Armor the Oman Creek Shoreline - immediate.
    2. Re-construction of the boating access site to pre-flash flood dimensions
    3. Improve the conditions of the dredging operation to be more effective and to provide more value to the boating public. Progress: DEQ and USACE permits have been approved. Project design is 100% complete, construction is estimated to cost $140,000, and construction funding has been approved. The construction of the improvements is proposed for May 21 - June 30, 2018. Saxon Harbor is proposed be closed all of the 2018 boating season. Black River harbor is proposed to be closed all the 2018 boating season. The DNR has communicated with Gogebic County Commissioners, Gogebic County Parks and Forestry, Iron County - WI, the USCG, and the USFS regarding boating access and boater safety.
    - Long range planning: $170,000.00 has been awarded for the design of a groin. The groin design will be informed by a littoral drift study. OHM Advisors has been awarded a contract for design. The analysis of coastal processes is underway. The analysis of proposed design improvements is 100% complete. Two groin alternatives were considered, a Public Input Session was held on July 24, 2018. The public input demonstrated support of investing in groin alternative #1. The DNR has selected Groin Alternative #1 and is proceeding with the development of plans and specifications for bidding. $1,000,000 has been allocated for construction of a groin. Design is proposed to be completed in the fall of 2019. Construction is proposed for 2020.

- **Bewabic State Park**: Met with contractor for stonework (chinking) on historic Structures at Bewabic State Park. Project is funded, project is scheduled for late May/early June. Materials have been purchased for construction of a 10’X18’ lean to at Bewabic Headquarters for cold storage. Project will commence in spring 2019.

- **Fort Wilkins Historic State Park**: Fire suppression project kicked off; East campground water line project kicked off.

- **Twin Lakes State Park**: Requested bid for the restroom building roof project, will continue with the project when weather conditions improve.

- **Van Riper State Park**: Received monies for reimagining the mini cabins for updates and renovations. Staff have started material estimates and closures have been put on each for work to be completed.