

WILDLIFE DIVISION  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

# Upper Peninsula Region



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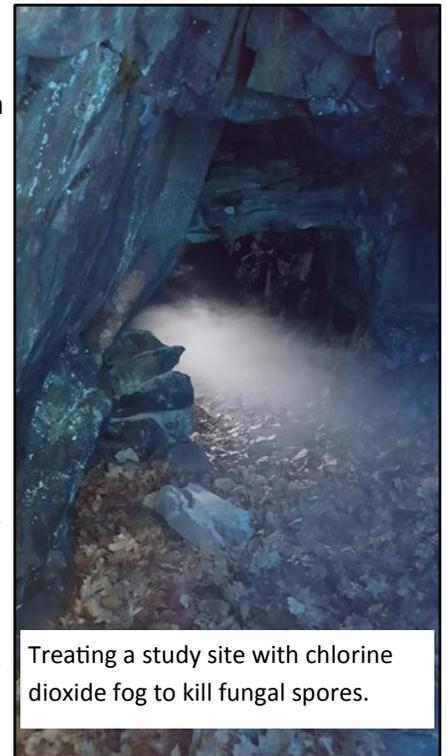
**Find out more at:  
[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)**

## Protecting Mines for Bats

Two research projects are underway in Michigan exploring field treatments for sites infected with the fungus, *Psuedogymnoascus destructans*, which causes White Nose Syndrome (WNS) in bats and leads to mortality. The DNR Wildlife Division of Michigan has teamed up with the Wisconsin DNR and the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) to treat two abandoned mines in the western Upper Peninsula. In this study, Chlorine dioxide (a chemical agent that is frequently used to clean food processing plants and is EPA approved) is used to kill fungal spores that cause WNS throughout the mines during the summer before bats return for the winter. In the spring, DNR wildlife biologists and UCSC researchers will return to assess the progress of the treatments.

The second research project is in cooperation with Ball State University and Western Michigan University in using the natural occurring protein from shellfish, chitosan, as an agent to inhibit fungal growth on bats. For this study, individual bats in two abandoned mines in the western UP will be treated with chitosan and monitored over the winter to assess survival during the months when WNS typically leads to bat mortality.

In addition to finding treatments to combat WNS, DNR staff also focus on conserving long-term critical bat habitat where large numbers of bats over-winter. Several dozen old mines have been protected with specially designed steel structures called bat gates. These gates are designed to allow bats to enter and exit while ensuring public safety by blocking entry. Some of these gated sites house populations of bats in excess of 50,000 in the winter.



Treating a study site with chlorine dioxide fog to kill fungal spores.

Recently a Baraga County mine was gated in cooperation with the Adventure Mining Company of Mass City, which built a custom bat gate for the mine entrance. Two Dickinson County mine entrances were also gated and interconnected underground by tunnels. These mines are home to a large number of bats including the Northern Long-Eared Bat which was recently listed as a threatened species. DNR staff will return to these locations to monitor bat populations in the future.



A large bat gate before being placed over a Dickinson County mine.



The installation crew next to a bat-gated mine after completion in Baraga County.

## Duck Banding Report

Regional personnel met Upper Peninsula duck banding goals this summer by capturing and leg-banding 128 mallards and 126 wood ducks in addition to 5 blue winged teal and one redhead. Reports of banded birds are used to calculate migratory timing, mortality rates and harvest information that is useful for planning future hunting seasons.



Non-Career Wildlife Assistant, Kyle McGillviray, with a banded drake wood duck at the Tourist Park Basin in Marquette.

# Habitat Enhancement Projects

In midsummer, wildlife staff from Crystal Falls conducted an annual temporary draw-down at the Hancock Creek impoundment in Dickinson County. Water levels of the flooding were lowered to encourage germination and growth of green plants favored by waterfowl. Lower water levels help to restore the vigor of the marshland ecosystem and provide easier access to mollusks and other food sources eaten by shorebirds. Periodic visits to the creek revealed numerous species utilizing the area including wood ducks, mallards, blue-winged teal, great blue heron, American bittern, sandpipers, and bald eagles. The water was restored to its original level on September 1<sup>st</sup>, allowing a variety of other wildlife to frequent the creek at deeper water levels.



In Luce County, a recent fall planting of large oak trees in the eight mile corner area will create another source of hard mast for deer and other wildlife.



In northern Delta County there has been continued work on food plots for wildlife in the Hendricks Habitat Improvement Area, made possible in partnership of Wildlife Unlimited of Delta County. This plot was planted in July.

In Schoolcraft County, 20 acres of forest openings were planted with clover and rye in the Sturgeon Hole Deer Wintering Complex to improve habitat and forage for deer. In addition, 2,615 shrubs, 130 red oak and 10 acres of rye and clover were planted in the Melstrand GEMS, and over 2,000 shrubs were planted in the Garden Grade GEMS. On August 27<sup>th</sup> a Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) "On-The-Ground" event took place with 21 volunteers arriving to assist with planting a variety of shrubs along hunter walking trails within the GEMS. Volunteers included local hunters, members of MUCC, UP Whitetails, and the Ruffed Grouse Society, and family of DNR staff.



Volunteers help to plant over 200 shrubs for wildlife in GEMS of Schoolcraft County.

# Improving Public Access for Wildlife Recreation

DNR staff has been busy this summer working to improve public access for wildlife viewing and hunting around the Upper Peninsula. A road improvement project is being conducted to improve access to part of the Munuscong State Wildlife Management Area in cooperation with the Chippewa County Road Commission. An existing road has been in poor condition for many years allowing only some AT-V's and 4x4 vehicles to pass. The improvements to date have made the road more passable, and next year should see the completion of the project along with a parking area to allow for better walk-in access to the costal marsh.

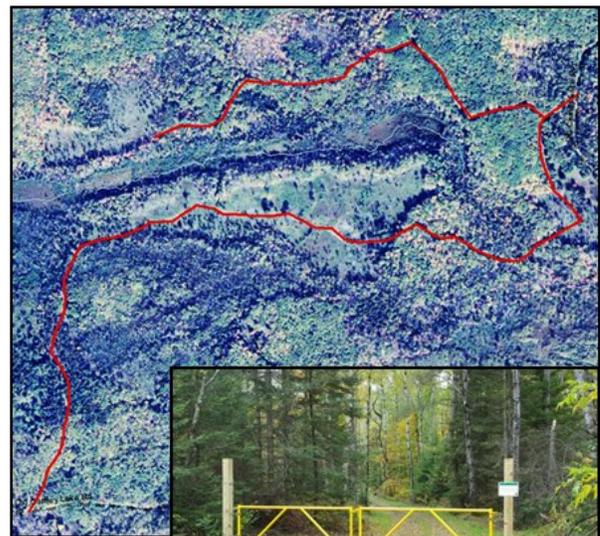
An easy access boardwalk and blind have been constructed at Dollarville Flooding in Luce County with the help of members from the Tahquamenon Waterfowl Association for waterfowl hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. The public is welcome to use the 12'x6' blind without having to make any reservations.



Waterfowl hunters and wildlife viewers now have more recreation opportunities at Dollarville Flooding, in Luce County, with the new easy access duck blind and boardwalk.

In late September, wildlife staff from Crystal Falls had a contractor bulldoze, disc and seed the Hosking Creek Hunter Walking Trail located near Iron Mountain. DNR staff installed gates at both entrances of the system and posted signage to identify the 2.5 mile trail that runs through white pine, aspen and mixed conifer. This area provides suitable habitat for deer, ruffed grouse, woodcock, bear, snowshoe hare, and turkey, as well as many other game and nongame species.

The Hosking Creek Hunter Trail is pictured in red (photo to the right) and curves around a creek while going through changing forest types. The trail is gated and marked with signs and welcomes non-motorized traffic.



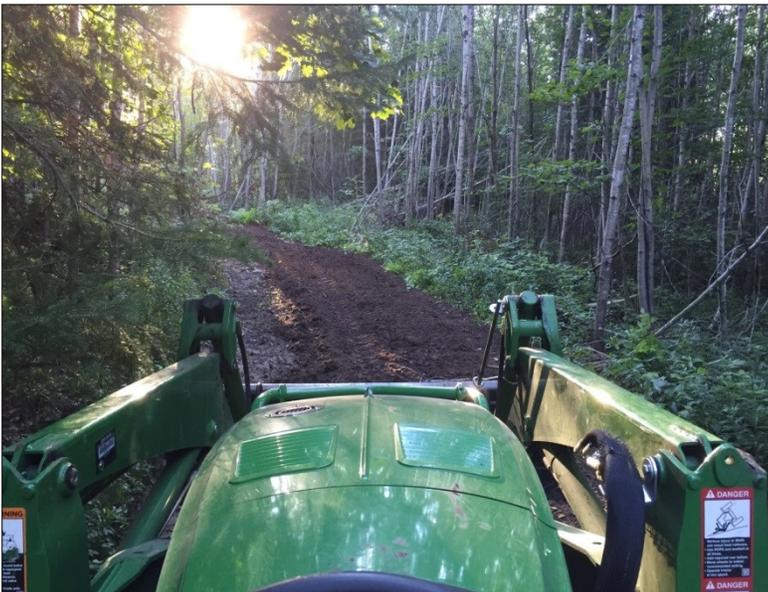


Currently under construction at Portage Marsh near Escanaba, are 2 boardwalks that are 50 and 100 feet long and will overlook the marsh landscape. These boardwalks will be open for wildlife viewing and waterfowl hunting. These boardwalks are connected by a maintained walking trail for access with a parking area at the trailhead.

Progress is underway as wildlife technician Colter Lubben works on the foundation for the boardwalks at Portage Marsh, near Escanaba.

## A Special GEMS Dedication

Bill Rollo, DNR Wildlife Technician in Marquette and lifelong conservationist, passed away unexpectedly last January. Bill was instrumental in developing the South Marquette County Grouse Enhanced Management Sites (GEMS). Over 30 people attended a dedication with Bill's wife and children on September 9<sup>th</sup> to rename this site the "Bill Rollo Memorial GEMS". Recent work at this site includes gravel parking lot improvements, planting of hunter-walking trails, and 5 acres of forest openings planted for wildlife habitat.



Another day on the tractor preparing hunter walking trails in the Bill Rollo Memorial GEMS in south Marquette County. The seed bed is being prepared using a disc prior to cultipacking the soil before a mix of clover seed with oats is spread.



Wildlife biologist Brian Roell and maintenance mechanic Jason Peterson, work to set the memorial rock with inlayed plaque onto the pedestal for former Marquette wildlife technician Bill Rollo.

## Invasive Species Control

Garlic mustard, an invasive plant, was recently found during forest inventory between Cedarville and De-tour on a county road adjacent to State Land. DNR staff in the Sault Ste. Marie unit and the Three Shores Cooperative Invasive Species Management Association (CISMA) surveyed the landscape and pulled garlic mustard in hopes of containing the occurrence. DNR staff and the Three Shores CISMA will continue monitoring the site in future years and will conduct control efforts as necessary to remove additional plants.

Garlic mustard is a flowering plant that smells like mustard when it is crushed. It has triangular shaped leaves with toothed edges, and clusters of small four petaled flowers that bloom in the spring. It can grow up to four feet tall and thrives in shaded wooded areas. This species can spread quickly through woodlots and threatens wildlife habitat by outcompeting native vegetation.

## Hunting Season Reminders

### Deer Check Stations

Deer check stations will be in operation at 3 DNR Customer Service Centers (Baraga, Marquette, Newberry) throughout the hunting seasons and during much of firearm season at other DNR locations. The following web link provides a listing of check station locations and hours: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/deercheck\\_439367\\_7.html](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/deercheck_439367_7.html) A successful deer hunter patch will be provided to hunters who present their deer for examination.

### Antlerless Deer Licenses

Antlerless deer licenses are available in 3 of the 22 U.P. deer management units—all are located in the south-central U.P. and all are for Private Land only. Two leftover licenses can be purchased per day until the quota is met, and the season purchase limit is five. Availability of leftover antlerless licenses changes regularly. Visit the following link to check on the current status of available licenses in the three U.P. deer management units: <http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/AvailableLicenses/Default/GetAvailableLicensePage?preSelectedLicenseType=D>

