



Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: August 2024 (information current as of 8/21/24)

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

Meetings/Events/Press Releases

Please feel free to share this list of events with everyone!! With all the amazing things happening in the U.P., let's help spread the word. 😊

DNR Public Meetings

For virtual or conference call meeting information, please go to the DNR website at: [DNR Meetings](#) and click on the appropriate meeting and/or agenda for instructions.

August 22	Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, St. Ignace, 6pm (906-226-1331)
September 11	Equine Trails Subcommittee, 1pm (517-331-6219)
September 12	Michigan Natural Resources Commission, Lansing, 9 am (NRC@michigan.gov)
September 24	Trails Advisory Council, 1pm (517-331-6219)
September 27	Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council, 10am (517-582-3220)
October 9	Joint Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, Marquette, 3pm (906-225-1331)
October 10	Michigan Natural Resources Commission, Marquette, 9am (NRC@michigan.gov)
December 2	Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, Virtual, 6pm (906-226-1331)
December TBD	Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, Virtual, 6pm (906-226-1331)

U.P. State Park, State-Sponsored & Other UP Activities

Please check with the state park before attending activity for any scheduling changes.

For all activities: [DNR Things to Do Calendar](#)

Sept 13-15	Van Riper State Park – Harvest Fest Weekend
Sept 20-22	Van Riper State Park – Harvest Fest Weekend
Sept 21-22	Wells State Park – Harvest Festival Spooktacular
Oct 4-5	Fayette Historic State Park – Fayette Fall Fest

Recent DNR Press Releases

For full details, go to: [DNR Press Room](#)

- Oman Creek boating access site to be temporarily closed for repairs in Gogebic County (8/15/24)
- DNR inland lake and stream surveys critical to managing Michigan fisheries (8/15/24)
- Metallic minerals lease application for Houghton, Iron, Ontonagon counties (8/15/24)
- Wildlife food plot field day in Escanaba Sept. 14 (8/14/24)
- Fall turkey drawing results available now (8/12/24)
- Around the bend: Free ORV Weekend Aug. 17-18 (8/9/24)
- Beetlecheck, Beetlecheck! Time to look for invasive Asian longhorned beetle (8/7/24)
- More than 9.1 million fish stocked in 2024 so far (8/6/24)
- Michigan Bear Forum, Furtaker User Group meetings set for August (8/5/24)

Grant Contacts

For grant information, to go: [DNR Grants](#)

- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant
 - Recreation Passport Grant
 - Michigan Spark Grants (Public Recreation)
 - Aquatic Habitat Grant
 - Fisheries Habitat Grant Program
 - Michigan Invasive Species Grant
 - Wildlife Habitat Grant
 - U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant
 - Forestry Grants
 - Land & Water Conservation Fund
 - Waterways Program Grants
- Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov
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Clay Buchanan, 517-614-0918, buchanenc1@michigan.gov
Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, scullonh@michigan.gov
<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/forestry>
Christie Bayus, 517-242-8737, bayusc@michigan.gov
Linnea Dawson, 517-290-2200, dawsonl@michigan.gov

Western UPCAC Update

The **Western UP Citizens Advisory Council** met in Escanaba on July 25, 2024. Prior to the meeting, the Council received a tour of the DNR Pocket Park on the UP State Fairgrounds which was next door to their meeting location. Agenda topics include an update on deer regulations approved by the Natural Resources Commission, updates on summer trail projects and the state forest management plan public review process, as well as reports from various DNR division staff, old business items and subcommittee reports. Two proposed resolutions from the wildlife subcommittee were discussed and passed by majority of the Council: recommend changes to UP deer regulations and create long-range UP deer and habitat management plan.

More information on both the Western and Eastern CACs can be found at www.michigan.gov/upcac.

August NRC Meeting Summary

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission met at Cadillac Place in Detroit on August 8, 2024. Major actions:

The Commission approved changes to the Wildlife Conservation Order to accommodate the federal Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023. The duck stamp, which generates funding to protect wetland habitat, is required for waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older. The federal act implements for the first time an electronic version of the stamp, allowing hunters to carry either an electronic or a physical duck stamp starting with the 2024-2025 migratory hunting seasons.

DNR Director Scott Bowen approved:

- [An expansion of the use of electronic bikes](#) – e-bikes – on state-managed trails.
- Five land transactions. Details can be found [in the NRC agenda online](#).

Fisheries Committee

Jim Francis of the Fisheries Division told the commission about the fisheries in Southeast Michigan. Perch, walleye, smallmouth bass and muskellunge are popular species for anglers on Lake St. Clair. Walleye fishing in Lake Erie is very good, with walleye abundance greater than it was in the 1980s. Harvest rates for yellow perch are also very good. All of this is accomplished through natural reproduction of fish with no stocking. The Detroit River walleye fishery is strong, with anglers having the most success in April and May. Jim pointed out the value of having these fishing opportunities in a part of the state where some 40 percent of Michigan's population resides. Although strong, the fishery is facing the twin challenges of harmful algal blooms and invasive species.

Committee of the Whole, Director's Report

Law Enforcement Chief Jason Haines, along with Hunter Klarr of the Safari Club International, presented the 2023 Shikar Officer of the Year Award to Conservation Officer Joe Deppen, who is assigned to Macomb County. The annual award is the highest recognition a conservation officer can receive. The award winner is selected by his or her peers. A member of

the Law Enforcement Division since 2016, CO Deppen has spent his career patrolling southeast Michigan, which is populated with historic waterfowl areas, including Lake St. Clair, Harsens Island and St. Clair Flats. He is well-known for successfully conducting large-scale investigations that require collaboration with other law enforcement agencies and local courts. He applies his waterfowl expertise to teach new officers species identification and enforcement skills at a weeklong waterfowl training academy. He is also a water safety instructor who drills new officers on important survival skills and rescue techniques. CO Deppen's other accomplishments include selection as the 2019 Mississippi Flyway Waterfowl Protection Officer of the Year for Michigan and the 2022 Michigan Officer of the Year by the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers. He has also earned two DNR Lifesaving Awards. CO Deppen holds a bachelor's degree in zoology with a concentration in biology from Michigan State University and was previously a salvage diver in Florida and Mexico.

Chief Haines then recognized CO Deppen and Conservation Officer Kris Kiel for a lifesaving event. In February of this year, the two COs were checking anglers ice fishing near the Fairhaven Boat Launch, in Ira Township on the northeast side of Anchor Bay, where the ice was weak and quickly deteriorating. After helping two men who had previously broken through the ice safely make it to shore, the COs began advising other anglers to get off the ice and directed them to a safe route. The last angler the COs encountered was about 100 yards from the shoreline fishing in a shanty. The COs warned him the ice was weak and breaking, telling him to come toward them where ice was safer. The angler dismissed the concerns. When the angler was about 30-40 yards from shore, one of his legs punched through the ice. He attempted to run but the ice cracked beneath him and he went into the water up to his neck. The angler was unable to hold onto a rope the officers threw to him. CO Deppen removed his duty belt and bulletproof vest, put on a life jacket and tied a rope to his waist. CO Kiel secured the other end of the rope. CO Deppen fell through the ice and punched the ice with his hands and forearms to make a path to the man. After a few minutes he reached the angler, who was conscious but not moving. Together, the two COs were able to remove the man from the water. Once the man was on land, he removed his wet clothes and sat in the COs patrol truck until he warmed up. He refused medical attention and left the scene on his own. Without the intervention of the two COs, the outcome could have been very different.

Lucas Nathan of the Fisheries Division presented [a number of department recommendations for changes to fisheries regulations](#), including some language changes to clear up angler confusion about boundaries on waters in Antrim County and Kent County. He also reviewed proposed amendment of steelhead regulations on a number of streams following 2023 regulation changes by the NRC. Other proposed changes would:

- Add the Rio Grande Creek in Muskegon County as a Type 1 trout stream.
- Allow people statewide to temporarily possess and relocate reptiles and amphibians on private property to make that process more efficient.
- Align the Fisheries Order with the list of state threatened and endangered species as that list was revised in 2023.
- Put blowguns on the list of forbidden gear for use in taking reptiles and amphibians.
- Remove Type C designation on Lime Lake in Leelanau County, where the department's stocking efforts have been ineffective.

Chad Fedewa of the Wildlife Division and Sgt. Michael Mshar of the Law Enforcement Division told the commission about recent changes to rules for the Mentored Youth Hunt. Established in 2011, the law allows a youth under 10 years of age to hunt, provided the youth is accompanied by an adult, and provided the adult is no more than an arm's length away during the hunt. The new rules expand the opportunity to a minor child who has a developmental disability and is unable to obtain certification of completion training through hunter safety. The opportunity was also expanded to include adults with developmental disabilities who meet certain criteria. Proposed changes to the Wildlife Conservation Order would align with this new act.

[A report on legislation affecting the department](#) was given to commissioners and is included below.

How to Participate in the NRC Meetings

- If you're unable to attend the meeting but wish to submit written comments on agenda items, please write to: Natural Resources Commission, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909 or email: nrc@michigan.gov.
- If you would like further information or would like to address the Commission, please contact nrc@michigan.gov. Persons registering on or before the Friday preceding the meeting will be allowed up to five (5) minutes for their presentation. Persons registering after the Friday preceding the meeting or at the meeting will be allowed up to three (3) minutes. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the NRC Assistant.
- Look for the agendas and other Natural Resources Commission items at the Natural Resources Commission webpage (www.michigan.gov/NRC).

HB 5737 – Modifies Mentored Hunting Program – Rep. Aiyash: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to include minor children or adults with developmental or intellectual disabilities who are not able to obtain a certification of completion of training in hunters' safety to participate in the mentored hunt program.

- This bill was signed by the Governor on 7/23/24, becoming PA 96 of 2024 with immediate effect.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

If you would like to learn more about any bills listed, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at <https://www.legislature.mi.gov>.

Division Updates

Executive Division: Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy

On June 27th, the Conference Committee on Senate Bill (SB) 747 adopted the fiscal year (FY) 2025 omnibus appropriations bill for all state departments and agencies, which takes effect October 1, 2024. Both the Senate and the House subsequently passed the bill. The bill will now be enrolled and presented to the Governor for her consideration. If the Governor approves, the bill will become law. The DNR's budget can be found in Article 13 of the [concurring bill](#), beginning on page 857. A [House Fiscal Agency bill analysis](#) and [Senate Fiscal Agency bill analysis](#) are available for reference.

Conference appropriates FY 2025 ongoing funding of \$525.6 million for the DNR, of which \$67.8 million is General Fund. Conference also appropriates \$9.0 million in FY 2025 one-time funding for the DNR, all of which is General Fund. Added together, Conference appropriates total FY 2025 funding of \$534.6 million for the DNR, including \$76.8 million General Fund. Highlights include:

KEY ITEMS OF AGREEMENT

- **Law Enforcement Records Management System:** Executive and Conference add \$700,000 ongoing General Fund
- **Communications Equipment Modernization:** Executive and Conference add \$878,300 ongoing General Fund (\$400,000 for the General law enforcement appropriation and \$478,300 for the Wildfire protection appropriation)
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund Compliance and Stewardship:** Executive and Conference add \$151,100 ongoing (\$76,100 General Fund and \$75,000 federal)
- **Nature Awaits:** Executive and Conference deduct \$4 million ongoing General Fund, reducing the ongoing funding for the program from \$8 million to \$4 million
- **Capital Outlay:** Executive and Conference include \$12.9 million federal for Land and Water Conservation Fund projects; \$1 million state restricted for ORV trail development and maintenance; \$1 million state restricted for snowmobile trail development and maintenance; \$3 million for wetland restoration, enhancement, and acquisition (\$1 million state restricted and \$2 million General Fund); \$20.05 million for state parks repair and maintenance (\$18.55 million state restricted and \$1.5 million General Fund); \$8.3 million for state boating infrastructure improvements (\$1.8 million federal and \$6.5 million state restricted); and \$3.5 million state restricted for local boating infrastructure improvements
- **Fleet Rate Increases:** Executive and Conference add \$890,300 ongoing (\$23,000 federal, \$524,200 state restricted, and \$343,100 General Fund)
- **Accounting Service Center MiCaRS Contractual Costs:** Executive and Conference add \$120,000 ongoing (\$108,600 state restricted and \$11,400 General Fund)
- **Cultural Resource Management:** Executive and Conference add FTE authorization for 3.5 FTEs to support the reallocation of existing contractual services funding for three archaeologist positions and one student position
- **Archives of Michigan Transfer to DTMB:** Executive and Conference deduct \$1.9 million General Fund and 14.5 FTEs from the Michigan historical center appropriation line

- **Technical Adjustments to Align Spending Authorization with Available Revenue:** Executive and Conference add \$670,000 ongoing (\$570,000 private forestry and \$100,000 Fisheries Settlement) and deduct \$328,400 ongoing (\$326,800 Belle Isle Subaccount and \$1,600 Game and Fish)
- **Economic Adjustments:** Executive and Conference add \$6,890,700 (\$918,900 federal, \$5,362,900 state restricted, and \$608,900 General Fund)
- **Sec. 252. Invasive Species Fund:** Executive and Conference retain boilerplate to allow the DNR to spend revenue deposited in the Invasive Species Fund for invasive species immediate response efforts

KEY ITEMS OF DIFFERENCE

- **Recreation Passport Opt-Out and Resident Military Exemption:** Executive adds \$17.2 million of ongoing state restricted funding tied to a proposal to change the Recreation Passport to an opt-out model and exempt the state's active-duty military and honorably discharged veterans from the Recreation Passport Requirement; Conference does not include.
- **Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative's Border-To-Border Trail:** Conference adds \$1,749,900 one-time General Fund to develop and enhance the 35-mile, nonmotorized Border-to-Border Trail in Washtenaw County (Boilerplate added in Sec. 1201)
- **American Chestnut Restoration Initiative:** Conference adds \$500,000 one-time General Fund to study and implement American chestnut restoration and assisted migration of American chestnut or other species for the purpose of helping adapt the state's forests to climate change (Boilerplate added in Sec. 1202)
- **Mass Timber Market Development:** Conference adds \$1 million one-time General Fund to aid the research and development of a mass timber market in Michigan (Boilerplate added in Sec. 1203)
- **Phragmites Management Equipment:** Conference adds \$250,000 one-time General Fund for the purchase of heavy equipment to aid in the management of phragmites around the state (Boilerplate added in Sec. 1204)
- **Sportsmen Against Hunger Refrigeration Units:** Conference adds \$500,000 one-time General Fund to purchase refrigerated trailers that processors can use to store deer and processed venison donations received through the Sportsmen Against Hunger Program (Boilerplate added in Sec. 1205)
- **America 250 Commission Grants:** Conference adds \$5 million one-time General Fund for grants to state and local entities to commemorate the U.S. Semiquincentennial (Boilerplate added in Sec. 1206)
- **Upper Peninsula ski project:** Conference adds a \$100 one-time General Fund placeholder
- **Sec. 230. Transparency Language:** Executive removes boilerplate that establishes rules and regulations for special grants intended for a single recipient organization or local government; Conference retains and updates boilerplate
- **Sec. 231. Restricted Revenue Carryforward Authority for Private Funds:** Executive adds boilerplate providing restricted revenue carryforward authority for unexpended and unencumbered private revenues deposited in Private funds and appropriating private revenue received in excess of private spending authorization provided in part 1; Conference adds boilerplate providing restricted revenue carryforward authority for unexpended and unencumbered private revenues deposited in Private funds but does not include language appropriating private revenue received in excess of private spending authorization provided in part 1
- **Sec. 232. State Fiscal Recovery Fund Reallocation:** Conference adds boilerplate requiring that the state budget director take steps to ensure all state fiscal recovery funds (SFRF) allocated to Michigan under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, are expended by December 31, 2026; boilerplate also grants the state budget director authority to reallocate appropriated funds for specified purposes to fully expend SFRF, requires that federal provisions be fully met, stipulates that the state budget director notify the appropriations committees of reallocations that are made, and gives the state budget director and departments authority to make accounting transactions necessary to implement reallocations
- **Sec. 1201. Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative's Border-to-Border Trail:** Conference adds boilerplate designating the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative's Border-to-Border Trail appropriation in part 1 as a work project appropriation
- **Sec. 1202. American Chestnut Restoration Initiative:** Conference adds boilerplate designating the American chestnut restoration initiative appropriation in part 1 as a work project appropriation
- **Sec. 1203. Mass Timber Market Development:** Conference adds boilerplate designating the Mass timber market development appropriation in part 1 as a work project appropriation

- **Sec. 1204. Phragmites Management Equipment:** Conference adds boilerplate requiring that the Phragmites management equipment appropriation in part 1 be used to purchase heavy equipment for managing phragmites; intent is that a Marsh Master is purchased, with the stipulation that the equipment is maintained at the St. John’s Marsh Wildlife Area and made available to localities and organizations that require aid in managing phragmites
- **Sec. 1205. Sportsmen Against Hunger Refrigeration Units:** Conference adds boilerplate designating the Sportsmen Against Hunger refrigeration units appropriation in part 1 as a work project appropriation; boilerplate also includes a provision allowing any funds remaining after the purchase of refrigeration units to be used to provide support for disease and fragment testing of donated meat
- **Sec. 1206. America 250 Commission Grants:** Conference adds boilerplate establishing an America 250 Committee, specifying the types of local and state initiatives that are to be supported by the grant funding provided through the America 250 Commission grants appropriation in part 1, and designating the America 250 Commission grants appropriation in part 1 as a work project appropriation; boilerplate also stipulates how the one-time funding of \$5 million is to be allocated:
 - \$3 million for local initiatives, with \$1 million earmarked for two specific local entities (\$500,000 each)
 - \$2 million for state initiatives, with not less than \$500,000 to be allocated to both the Michigan History Center and the State Archives for these purposes

FY 2024 supplemental appropriations for various state departments and agencies are also included in Article 16 of SB 747. This includes nearly \$6.5 million in FY 2024 supplemental appropriations for the DNR. The following FY 2024 supplemental appropriations for the DNR are included in SB 747 beginning on page 1017 of the concurred bill:

- \$3.6 million private funds from a Mellon Foundation grant to support a community-driven project to share Native American history more accurately and completely at the Father Marquette National Memorial in Straits State Park
- \$2.3 million General Fund to purchase and retire a state commercial fishing license that is no longer eligible for use due to the 2023 Great Lakes Consent Decree that prohibits state licensed commercial fishing in the Big Bay de Noc management unit of Lake Michigan
- \$2.5 million General Fund to provide additional funding for the replacement of the DNR Fisheries Survey Vessel *Steelhead*, which was built in 1966 and is assigned to Lake Michigan
- \$1.5 million General Fund to provide additional support for the Brandon Road Interbasin Project to keep invasive carp out of the Great Lakes
- \$561,900 General Fund to assist with the cost of one-time lump sum payments to eligible employees in FY 2024, as approved by the Civil Service Commission
- \$4 million General Fund reduction for Nature Awaits, decreasing FY 2024 funding for the program from \$8 million to \$4 million

SB 747 does not include the FY 2024 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) appropriations, which total \$23.3 million. The FY 2024 MNRTF appropriations are included in SB 817. Legislative action is still needed to resolve an item of difference between the versions of SB 817 that were passed by the House and Senate in May.

Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Chief

- **Social Media**
 - We recently collaborated with the governor’s office to highlight outdoor recreation opportunities and the Nature Awaits program to larger audiences utilizing her social media platforms.
 - We are working with the Office of Public Land staff to flesh out more LinkedIn content to fit their needs for business-to-business connections and to highlight their projects.
 - Staff will be attending the Fisheries in-service to talk about engaging via social media and building relationships with customers digitally.

- **Rec Search:** We have started building partial park pages in Sitecore under the new Rec Search webpage. This is the beginning stage of content migration. The goal is to have the site live by October.
- **Graphics and Editing Support:** We are working with Parks and Recreation Division's (PRD's) Trails Unit to design and edit signage and a rack card in support of e-bikes and the expanded use of them on our state-managed trails following the expected approval at the August 8 Natural Resource Committee meeting.
- **Range Activities:** We assumed operation and maintenance responsibilities for Echo Point and Barry shooting ranges. Echo Point repairs and improvements are under design. Roscommon development delayed until utility easement issues are resolved. Design work started for new archery/pellet gun range at Yankee Springs Recreation Area.
- **R3 Coordinator:** Todd Grischke, our R3 coordinator, attended the National R3 Symposium in Alabama. The National Wild Turkey Federation is hosting monthly coffee and conversation events. Pheasants Forever hosted turkey hunting events in April that included calling contests.
- **Archery Coordinator:** Kathy Garland, our archery coordinator, has been working with and training regional coordinators.
- **Finance and Administration:** We are working on third quarter budget reports and work project requests. We're in the process of filling a Diversity Equity Inclusion/LAP position for the division.
- **The Nature Awaits Team:** Held a spring recap session at the Rose Lake Shooting Range to review the fourth-grade field trip program. Information shared at this meeting will be used to improve the fall field trip sessions, including teacher communications, evaluation and marketing.
- **USA Archery Level 2:** Ed Shaw conducted a USA Archery Level 2 instructor training for all new interpretive staff. This intensive certification included online and in-person sessions. Our staff can now teach beginner archery classes to park and hatchery visitors at their sites, while also certifying their STW staff as Level 1 instructors.
- **Interviews:** Interviews for two promotional agents for the Stepping Stones program in southern Michigan and a Nature Awaits interpreter at the Carl T Johnson Hunt and Fish Center in Cadillac.
- **July Academy of Natural Resources:** The DNR's July Academy of Natural Resources is taking place July 7-12 at the Ralph A. McMullen Conference Center. Attendance is 100% with 58 participating educators from around the state.
- **Technology and Accessibility:** The DNR is making significant strides in technology and accessibility this month. Both the Campground Reservation System and Michigan Connect Outdoors (MiCO) are undergoing updates to align with state mandated WCAG 2.1 Level AA accessibility standards. These enhancements will improve website usability for all visitors in the future. Additionally, Jennifer Rees has joined the DNR to leverage big data and analyze customer trends. Her initial project, supporting Fisheries with a historical fishing license data report, has been successfully completed. Development of the new Rec Search in SiteCore is nearing completion at 75%. Efforts to transition existing applications to the Company Portal for iOS devices are underway. Finally, the DNR continues to strengthen network capabilities and reliability through the integration of StarLink satellite internet.
- **Staff Updates:** Amy Price started in the Marketing Section June 24 as the DNR website administrator. Gary Jones was hired to be the new Recruitment and Retention section manager.

Fisheries Division-Eastern UP – Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Biologist

- Baraga Fisheries Biologist interviews wrapped up. The new Fisheries Biologist is scheduled to start in mid-September.
- Newberry fisheries crew completed Aquatic Invasive Species early detection monitoring in the Upper St. Marys River. This effort was collaborated with the US Fish and Wildlife Service as part of their Early Detection Monitoring program for the Great Lakes. The St. Marys River is a priority port.
- Newberry fisheries crew completed stream surveys in the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and on North Branch Stutts Creek.
- Newberry fisheries crew has begun stream sampling on Status and Trends fixed and random site streams. These streams are located in Mackinac, Chippewa, and Alger County.
- Newberry fisheries crew are collecting habitat assessment data and limnological profiles for Status and Trends long-term monitoring lakes. These lakes have temperature loggers deployed from ice-out to just before ice-up. Area lakes on the long-term monitoring list are Monocle Lake, North Manistique Lake, Muskallonge Lake, Dana Lake, and Deer Lake (Alger County).

- Lake Superior management staff attended the Forest Resources Division Shingleton and Newberry pre-review meetings.
- Lake Superior management staff met with the planning team for the Sucker River Sea Lamprey barrier project. Boring exploration is required for determining the design of the structure. Boring samples are to be collected in the next few months to meet the timeline for the project. US Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and Fisheries Division staff are communicating with Forest Resources Division for the land-use permit.
- Trail camera deployed at West Johns Lake, Alger County has shown low frequency and effort this season by anglers. West Johns Lake is one of the stocking locations for Arctic Grayling broodstock in 2023 and receives yearling brook trout annually. Angler reports have been positive for brook trout, but no reports for Arctic Grayling have come in.
- Staff attended the Smith-Root Electrofishing workshop. Certification was awarded for attendance and participation at the workshop. Fisheries Division policy requires certification to operate electrofishing equipment.
- Lake Superior creel and biologist meeting was held in Marquette. There has been some turnover for creel clerks on Lake Superior and changes in the program were discussed.
- Staff assisted Alger Conservation District in installing the final brush bundles for the Au Train Lake habitat enhancement project. In total, more than 130 habitat structures (Fishsticks and brush bundles) were installed in Au Train Lake, Alger County between 2023 and 2024.
- Northern Lake Huron staff performed a fish community netting survey of Bay City Lake (near Hessel).
- Northern Lake Huron staff placed temperature loggers at several coastal tributaries this year and is monitoring stream temperature throughout the summer.
- Northern Lake Huron staff recently completed a Status of the Fishery Resource report for High Banks Lake in Chippewa County. Look for that report to be available on the DNR Fisheries Division website soon. [Status of the Fishery Resource Reports \(michigan.gov\)](#)
- Northern Lake Michigan management staff are assisting Trout Unlimited and Huron Pines staff to gather necessary paperwork, review plans and coordinate Spring Creek (Luce County) and McAlpine Pond (Mackinac County) dam removals with Forest Resources Division. The Natural Rivers permit for Spring Creek has been approved, and engineering plans for McAlpine are being finalized.
- Northern Lake Michigan management staff have completed dam inspection and dam maintenance activities this summer at Kings Pond (Schoolcraft County) and Millecoquins Creek (Mackinac County). Both impoundments at Kings Pond dam and Millecoquins Creek dam are tentatively being scheduled for drawdowns and stoplog replacement during late summer/early fall 2025 and then refilled by early- to mid-October before fall trout stocking commences.

Wildlife Division: Dave Lemmien, UP Wildlife Supervisor (prepared by Dave Jentoft, Wildlife Biologist)

Projects & Items

- Sault Ste. Marie Unit staff collaborated with the Three Shores CISMA, UP RC&D, and The Nature Conservancy on an invasive species survey of alvar, a rare natural community type. The survey took place in on Drummond Island in July and was conducted to monitor the progress of control efforts. A similar collaborative survey was conducted in 2017 and control efforts have been implemented each year since through collaboration with the Three Shores CISMA. The results of this year's survey will be used to monitor progress and inform control efforts moving forward.
- Bear surveys were conducted on Drummond Island in June to help monitor the bear population on the island and provide updated information for management.
- The Sault Ste. Marie and Newberry units are working together to improve an ~30 acre opening near Engadine. Mowing, tilling, and herbicide applications are being used to control spotted knapweed, an invasive plant species, that has dominated the opening. This is the start of a multi-year project to enhance the habitat of the opening.
- Newberry staff have been working on adding benches and boot brush stations to GEM's trails and enhancing habitat through plantings at the Silver Creek Bird Trail.
- Surveys on the Dollarville Flooding in the Newberry Unit are being conducted for a new aquatic invasive grass species *Glyceria maxima*. Newberry staff are collaborating with Three Shores CISMA to better understand best management and treatment methods moving forward for this new detection.
- Work continues for the Camp Cusino restoration project (30 acres) with a fall cover crop going in (ryegrass). The long-term goal is establishing several different habitat types (native warm season grass, pollinator plantings, hard

and soft mast trees, etc.), placing signage providing education about the habitat and history of the Cusino Wildlife Research Center and the past deer research that happened here, along with a hiking trail throughout.

- Shingleton Unit staff are planting 17 acres of trail and opening reclamation as well as planting rye/clover in the Garden GEMS.
- Shingleton Unit staff are planting 60 acres of cereal rye planting in the Garden Peninsula for deer browse. This area will be planted to native warm season grasses in the spring of 2025.
- Waterfowl banding is occurring in various locations in the U.P., including on the far east end. Approximately 150 geese were banded in July by Newberry and Sault Ste. Marie staff. Shingleton staff assisted in banding efforts in the western U.P. In total, approximately 500 geese were banded in the U.P., which is an increase from recent previous years. Duck banding is currently underway. Banding provides important movement information for monitoring populations.
- Wild rice has been planted in several locations in the eastern U.P., and Newberry staff have been involved with monitoring those in the Newberry Unit. They have also placed balloons to scare geese at the Blind Sucker Flooding to attempt to decrease goose damage on the rice beds. Plantings have been done to help restore wild rice in suitable habitats and enhance habitats for wildlife. The DNR has worked with partners including tribes on some of these enhancement efforts.
- Bear regulations will be considered for the 2025-2026 hunting season and are currently being reviewed by staff. Recommendations are informed by results including those provided by hunters including harvest, hunter success, and hunter effort.
- Staff have been working with foresters to inventory and develop management plans for part of the state forest for the next 10 years. Each year, roughly 10% of state forest is evaluated and 10-year management plans are developed. Draft management plans are available for public review and comment on-line and at open houses (Sault Ste. Marie – Aug. 29, Cusino - Sept. 12, Newberry – Oct. 13). Those interested in wildlife habitat or forest management on state land are encouraged to be involved. See the MI Forest Viewer to review activities and make comments on proposals by visiting the DNR's forestry page at www.michigan.gov/forestry.

Events, Calls, & Other Items

- Sault Ste. Marie Unit staff attended Frog Fest in Cedarville in July. The event provided an opportunity for attendees to network with various organizations that are involved with wetlands. Staff interacted with many people, particularly youth, and had some furs and wings available for attendees to view to educate them about the species.
- An MUCC Boots on the Ground event is in the planning stages for Sept. 14th at the Blind Sucker Flooding in the Newberry Unit to reduce invasive species, erosion on the dam, and supplement the area with native flowers and shrubs.
- Shingleton staff have upcoming community engagement activities planned with area hunter safety classes, and an annual agripalooza event hosted by the Alger Conservation District at the MSU Farm in Chatham. This event sees hundreds of area 5th graders come and participate in Natural Resources based educational opportunities.
- Staff have had numerous nuisance, sick, or injured wildlife calls during the summer, and continue to respond to these calls. Many nuisance calls are related to a food source for the animal. Most nuisance issues can be resolved by removing the attractants.

Camera Survey Update

- Staff are currently visiting all camera locations to swap out sim cards and verify camera conditions.
- Estimating staff have visited 30% of camera locations thus far.
- Estimating less than 5% have been vandalized.
- Hoping to have all sim cards swapped out by mid-October.
- Photo analyzing will start after all sim cards are collected and the research team is planning on having photo analyzing work done by end of winter.

Finance & Operations Division: Becky Randazzo, Eastern UP

Upcoming Season Dates

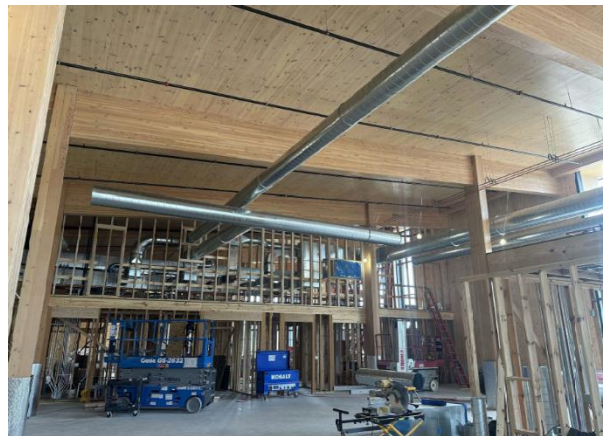
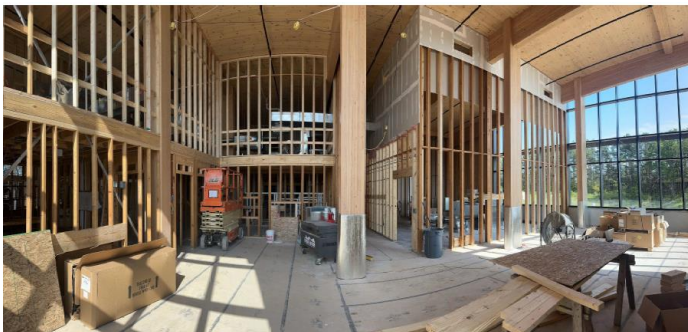
8/19 Leftover Turkey Licenses on sale (for unsuccessful applicants; OTC for all on 8/26)

- 8/28 Deadline to apply for Reserved Waterfowl
- 8/26 Drawing Results for U.P. Antlerless Access & Reserved Deer posted online
- 8/27 Elk Hunt #1 opens (see Elk Digest for all hunt period dates)
- 9/1 Goose, Teal, Snipe, Rail seasons open (see Waterfowl digest for periods/limits)
- 9/1 May place tree stands, ladders, steps, and Type 3 deer blinds on State land
- 9/3 Leftover Deer Access Permits & Leftover Reserved Hunts on sale at 10:00 am
- 9/7 Sturgeon opens on the Boundary Waters (closes 9/30)
- 9/11 Bear hunting begins in the U.P.
- 9/14-15 Liberty Hunt for deer, see pgs. 37 and 43
- 9/14 Bear hunting opens in Lower Peninsula units (No dogs opening weekend; bait only)
- 9/15 Small Game Opener (Rabbit, Hare, Ruffed Grouse, Fox/Gray/Black Squirrel)
- 9/15 Fall Turkey season opens (through 11/14)
- 9/15 Woodcock opener (through 10/29)
- 9/15 Turtle seasons close (Snappers and Softshells)
- 9/15 Can place bait for Deer in U.P. (for information, see pg. 46-62)
- 9/21-22 Early Antlerless Firearm Deer season (see digest p. 52 for areas)
- 9/21-22 Youth Waterfowl Hunt – includes Veterans and Active Duty personnel
- 9/24 LP Bear firearm seasons end (Note: closes four days prior for bait hunters)
- 9/28 Duck Hunting opens in the North Zone
- 9/30 Crow season closes; Sturgeon closes on Lk. St. Clair, St. Clair R. and Boundary Waters.
- 9/30 Trout Season closes on most inland streams
- 9/30 Snowmobile Licenses expire



Newberry Construction

The mass timber Newberry Customer Service Center project is moving along nicely and is currently on schedule.



Forest Resources Division: Scott Lakosky, Eastern UP Supervisor

Timber Sales

- Newberry FMU
 - Offered 17 sales for bid this past 2 months; 9 sales received bids, 8 sales went no bid with one of them later being sold for minimum. Lowland sales or sales with high pulp volumes continue to be challenging to sell.
 - Timber sale harvesting activity has been somewhat below average for this time of year. Markets have been volatile but there has been an uptick in markets this past month. Billerud has been buying more pulpwood.
 - All staff have been involved in preparing annual timber sales and much work has been accomplished thus far by both DNR staff and contractors.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
 - Offered 7 timber sales between June and July; two of which were GNA sales.
 - 5 active logging jobs in the unit during the spring/early summer. This seems to be a bit lower than normal. Markets are still challenging especially on the far east U.P. where loggers are struggling to get quota especially for the pulp wood.
 - Staff are in high gear preparing timber sales and working to complete the 2024 plan of work.
- Shingleton FMU
 - Offered 5 sales for bid this past 2 months; 4 sold with 1 no bid.
 - Pine markets remain strong, pulpwood markets especially hardwood have improved in the last 2 months.

Forest Inventory

- Field work for the 2026 planning year is nearly complete across the district.
- Staff are finalizing treatment prescriptions and preparing for the public compartment review cycle.
- Internal “Pre-Review” meetings were held across the district in each unit and 30-day public comment periods for each unit are open now or approaching (see calendar).
- Open houses are scheduled to be held by each FMU following the public comment period.

Cultivation

- Site Prep
 - Trenching across the district is ongoing to prepare sites for pine planting. Efforts will continue to prep sites into the fall for the EUP.
 - Rollerchopping sites also on-going.
 - Currently 508 acres of scarification have been completed, of the 994 acres on contract for this summer. Contractor is making good progress through the EUP sites and plans to be done by the end of September.
 - Aerial site prep spray work was completed in early July. All sites were completed for 493 acres.
 - All Skidder site prep spray work was completed in July. 135 acres of ground/skidder site prep work in the EUP was done.
- Pre-Commercial Thinning (PCT)
 - Budget was increased for EUP PCT work this year.
 - The crew is currently moving to the last site for pine release. Total completed will be 152 acres.
 - 2 oak release sites in Kinross which may or may not be completed this fall due to additional work for the contractor to complete in the WNLP.

Fire

- Newberry FMU
 - 1 reportable fire that was 0.1 acres in size.
 - 1 staff attended training on fire investigation training course.
 - 2 staff attended training on firing operations training course.
 - 1 prescribed fire for 72 acres of slash reduction for reforestation was completed with unit staff as well as staff from other units.
 - Newberry hosted a Wildland Fire Chainsaw and Fire Chainsaw Refresher Courses with 28 participants
 - 1 staff currently on assignment as a Strike Team Leader in Montana to assist with wildfires

- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
 - 2 staff attended training on fire investigation training course.
 - 4 staff attended training on firing operations training course.
 - 7 staff attended Wildland Fire Chainsaw and Fire Chainsaw Refresher Course in Newberry with 1 assisting in course instruction.
 - Dafter Twp. Fire Department was granted a 5000-gallon tanker from the Federal Excess Property Program.
 - 1 Fire Officer (FO) took an Out-of-State fire assignment to Southern California as a Heavy Equipment Boss and had the opportunity to work as a Taskforce Leader Trainee.
 - 1 Fire Supervisor recently returned from an assignment in California with a FDNY Incident Management Team as a Division Supervisor
 - 1 FO assigned to the Boise Fire in Northern California as a Heavy Equipment Boss
 - 3 FO's from the Unit assisted with instructing a two-day Engine Boss Academy/Field Day in Roscommon.
 - Two Smokey Bear Wildfire Prevention Programs were completed. Pickford Township Library, 17 kids attended (pre-school – 3rd Grade). Bayliss Library in Sault Ste. Marie where over 100 children (pre-school-3rd Grade) attended.
- Shingleton FMU
 - 1 Fire Officer and 1 Forester dispatched to Oregon as Engine Bosses.
 - Fire activity in the Unit has been slow but staff have been assisting other Units with prescribed burns and fire suppression.

Road and Bridge

- Newberry FMU
 - Continued repairs on Charcoal Grade including beaver grates and unplugging culverts.
 - Repaired large culvert on South Charcoal Grade.
 - Monitored contractor work on Charcoal grade in the area of the three new bridges.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
 - Staff from the unit replaced the deck of a bridge on the Carp River Truck Trail after it was damaged. The road was closed for two days while the crew worked on making the repairs.
 - In late July or early August the Chippewa County Road Commission will begin a project to replace three crossing on the Beaver Tail Creek. One of those crossing is on a state forest road. The project is expected to last one month during which the roads will be closed.
- Shingleton FMU
 - Unit staff are working on a culvert project near Cold Creek as well as the Ecklund Road.

Facilities

- Newberry Customer Service Center / Field Office building in construction is progressing and on schedule. Slated to be complete by the end the calendar year.
- Graded Newberry Field Office Compound driveways and parking areas.
- Shingleton staff are busy emptying out the Shingleton Filed Office in preparation for new flooring which will begin August 19.

Land Use

- Reviewing applications and fielding several phone calls regarding questions about various uses and easements on state land.
- Sault FMU reviewing easements and SUL for fiber optic lines in Mackinac County.
- Easement benefitting several landowners on Drummond Island was approved and should be issued shortly.
- Shingleton unit working on several land use permits for road permits and research.
- Shingleton unit also reviewing easement requests for Fiber installation.

Forest Health

- Statewide Forest Health Pathologist

- Forest health aerial surveys were completed in the EUP by the end of July/first week of August.
- While ground checks to confirm aerial survey data are still ongoing, pockets of jack pine budworm (JPBW) defoliation and small pockets of forest tent caterpillar defoliation were mapped.
- Spruce budworm damage (SBW) has been “patchy” across the east UP, and visible at stand edges and along roads. In aerial surveys, only a few small pockets of defoliation were mapped.
- Shingleton Unit
 - Forest Tent caterpillars have been observed in the Thompson Plains
 - Pockets of Armillaria were found in red pine plantations near the big spring.

Commercial Forest

- District Service Forester
 - Reviewing New Enrollments to ensure compliance with Commercial Forest Program requirements.
 - Reviewing Forest Management Plans
 - Administering timber sales within the Conservation Easement.
 - Gary Willis, West UP Service Forester has retired. EUP Service Forester is currently fielding calls and property owner questions for the WUP until the position is filled.

Research

- MiCedar research project sites being prepared by field staff/students from MTU. 8 different stands across the EUP will study regeneration of cedar stands using various harvesting techniques. Field work as begun in the WUP on establishing the harvest areas for the cedar research project. Work will soon begin later this summer on the EUP.
- Research has provided data on silvicultural systems to use to promote acceptable northern hardwoods species regeneration. EUP Units have begun to implement these techniques within some prescriptions. Hardwood gap guidance document has also been produced further demonstrating the success of the research project.

Training

- Many land management staff from across the district attended Bank Full Width stream crossing training.
- 1 Newberry staff attended CDL – truck driving school.

Vacancies / Hirings

- Newberry and Sault FMUs are now fully staffed.
- Sault FMU Joel Johnson completed his WOC assignment as Soo-50 and did a great job; Rob is now back as the 50 and completed his WOC assignment as Fire Specialist.
- Kevin Clark began his WOC as Fire Supervisor in Shingleton on 7/21 as Shalom continues his WOC assignment as Fire Specialist in Marquette.
- Robert Beaudoin transferred to a Fire Officer position in the Seney Field Office.
- Forester George Wilson transferred to the Escanaba office from Shingleton. The unit is working on filling the vacancy.

Public Information Office: John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer

- In conjunction with WNMU-TV13, the schedule for live broadcasts of “Ask the DNR” for the 2024-2025 season has been set. The dates are all Thursday nights at 8 p.m. and include Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5 and April 3.
- We need volunteers to answer phones during the 1-hour programs. This is especially true for the Nov. 7 deer-hunting-themed program. Please contact me if you are interested in participating at pepinj@michigan.gov or 906-226-1352. All training provided.

Parks & Recreation Division-Eastern UP Trails: PJ Costa-Eastern UP Trails

Project Name: Trail 8 – 3 Bridges	Project Name: Haywire Grade – 11 Bridges
Description: Engineer and replace 3 bridges	Description: Engineer and replace 11 bridges
Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use: ORV/Snowmobile
Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: TBD
Aug 2024 Update: The Ionia and Bear Trap substantial completion inspection is done. Final paperwork being worked on. Funding for Melstrand Culvert has been obtained. Current engineer has faulted. In the process of doing a change order to switch the project into the Ionia and beartrap engineer and contractor contract.	Aug 2024 Update: Waiting on approval and NEPA process from the USFS.
Project Name: Grass Creek Bridge Snow Trail #8	Project Name: Betsy River Bridge Snow Trail #452
Description: Bridge failing on the sunrise grade. Design and replacement needed.	Description: Large bridge failing north of Paradise. Design and replacement needed.
Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use: Snowmobile
Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: TBD
Aug 2024 Update: Waiting on funding.	Aug 2024 Update: Waiting on funding.
Project Name: Sunrise Grade Snow Trail #8 LFRHW Crossing	Project Name: Trail #49 – 12 Mile/Gaines Hwy
Description: Failing bridge on Snow Trail #8. Design, engineering and construction needed to replace	Description: 4.2 miles of roadbed and a failed bridge. Design, engineering and construction needed to build up roadbed and replace the crossing.
Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use: Snowmobile
Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: TBD
Aug 2024 Update: Waiting on funding.	Aug 2024 Update: Snow club has been working on design and engineering of this project through their snow grant. More to be done. EGLE permitting being explored, wetland mitigation will be needed. Project will probably transfer to an internal DTMB project due to scope and expense.

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

It's been a very busy summer with great weather and lots of people out recreating across the district. Officers have many things they have been working on at the same time, such as marine, fish enforcement, ORVs, search & rescues. Some of the on-water rescues unfortunately turned into recovery missions. Several Hunter Safety classes have also been taught by our officers. Not to forget all the trainings including, firearms, survival tactics, marine, EVO (emergency vehicle operation), and completing background investigations on new CO candidates. Below are some of the activities officers have been involved in since our last EUPCAC meeting.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 5-26-2024 – 6-8-2024

- **Cpl. Brett DeLonge and COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** instructed a boater safety course at the BOW event in Big Bay. The students were taught the rules and regulations and were given several hours of one-on-one training in trailering, backing, and boat operation.
- **CO Steve Butzin** assisted teaching Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) cadets at the Northern Michigan University police academy on how to properly conduct traffic stops. CO Butzin also incorporated DNR law into the traffic stop scenarios. This included possession of loaded or uncased firearms in motor vehicles, possession of open intoxicants, and possession of fish and game without the proper licenses.

- **CO Robert Freeborn** instructed at the annual BOW program put on by the DNR. CO Freeborn assisted **CO Jennifer Hanson** in teaching shotgun safety. The women in the class were first shown the basic safety and operation of a shotgun. The women then put their skills to the test and shot skeet. This was the first time most of the women in the class handled a shotgun and by the end were very excited to use their new skills in the field.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 6-9-2024 – 6-22-2024

- While checking anglers on Lake Michigan, **CO Robert Freeborn and Sgt. Mark Zitnik** observed a boat that appeared to have too many lines in the water. Upon approaching the boat, one of the anglers tried reeling in a line before the COs made contact. The two anglers were found to be fishing with 12 lines, six over the legal amount. A citation was issued to both anglers for fishing with more than three lines per person and an additional citation was issued to one of the anglers for failing to produce a fishing license. A warning was also given for improper MC registration numbers.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a complaint of squatters on state land who appeared to have been there for several months. CO Freeborn located the subjects on state land and immediately recognized them from this winter on a similar complaint. CO Freeborn documented the scene and noticed there was not a current camp card present. The subjects were educated and warned about this last time they were contacted by CO Freeborn. The subjects were advised that the entire site must be cleaned of all garbage and old vehicles and need to be moved from the location. A citation was issued for no camp registration card.
- **COs Steve Butzin, Brandon Maki, and Cpl. Chris Lynch** instructed a hunter safety field day at the Escanaba Pocket Park. The class lead to 15 students successfully receiving their hunter safety certificate.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** assisted at the Tahquamenon Falls State Park 50k marathon and half marathon foot races. In addition to assisting with traffic control on a busy highway, CO VanOosten was able to cheer on **CO Josh Wright** who completed the half marathon race.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** assisted the MSP and Mackinac County Sheriff's Department in locating a wanted individual from an operating while intoxicated (OWI) investigation in 2020 that was led by CO VanOosten. Upon contact by the MSP trooper, the subject locked the door and barricaded it with a large gas generator. CO VanOosten was able to deescalate the situation and talk the subject into exiting the house where he was able to resolve the matter peacefully. The subject was able to post the required \$1,000 cash bond assuring that he will appear in court for the charges from 2020.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on marine safety patrol when he contacted a group of four adults and an eight-year-old child fishing. The child was quick to show off a nice 24.5-inch pike that she had caught as well as several perch. After checking fishing licenses and marine safety equipment, the family explained that they were vacationing in the area and staying at a nearby resort. After confirming with the parents and finishing the patrol of the lake, CO VanOosten returned to the resort and was able to provide the young angler with a brand-new fishing pole as well as a box of jigs which had been donated to promote youth fishing. The young angler was very excited to try out the fishing pole during the remainder of their vacation.
- **CO Mike Olesen** responded to the scene of a personal injury automobile accident in Mackinac County and assisted with traffic control while the investigation took place.

DISTRICT 2 BIWEEKLY REPORT 6-23-2024 – 7-6-2024

- While on patrol, **COs Robert Freeborn, Steve Butzin, and Cpl. Mike Hammill** located a boat that appeared to be fishing with too many lines. As the COs got closer to the boat, the angler frantically started reeling in the extra lines. When the COs contacted the individual, he was still trying to reel in his extra lines and had two he couldn't get in. A citation was issued for the violation.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol when Delta County Central Dispatch sent out a call of a boater in distress on Little Bay de Noc near the Stonington Lighthouse. CO Butzin and two Delta County Sheriff's deputies responded to the location aboard the sheriff's department patrol boat. When they arrived, they observed that a 21-foot bass boat had flipped over in the rough water due to engine failure and the boater was sitting on top of the overturned hull of the boat. They were able to throw the individual a line and pull them to the patrol boat. The individual was unharmed in the incident. In the hours following, the officers towed the vessel back to Escanaba where the use of a tow truck from Gene's Towing was used to keep the overturned vessel upright allowing for the water to be pumped out. In the end, the individual was thankful for the quick response, the boat was able to be recovered, and the bass that the fisherman caught was still in the live well!
- **COs Steve Butzin and Rob Freeborn** were on patrol in the Garden Area when they observed a vehicle parked in the launch ramp at the Garden Bay boating access site. The vehicle, along with an empty trailer attached to it, had parked in a manner that made it nearly impossible for other boats to launch. This individual had also parked directly in front of a no parking sign. A citation was issued to the owner of the vehicle for entering a state recreational facility without a recreational passport and for parking in a prohibited space.

- **CO Justin Vinson** reported a case involving two bear cubs being taken from late September 2023 was concluded. The suspect plead guilty to taking two bear cubs and paid over \$7,500 in fines and restitution, lost hunting privileges for three years, and forfeiture of firearm.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** responded to a personal injury accident on Drummond Island. An ORV had exited the roadway and hit a tree. CO VanOosten assisted the fire department with extracting the victim who suffered non-life-threatening injuries. The driver and passenger were both wearing their seatbelts, likely saving their lives.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** were on marine patrol of Big Manistique Lake when they contacted a boat with an expired registration sticker. A safety check was conducted on the boat, and it was determined that they only had six PFDs for the nine total adults. Two men on the boat attempted to trick the COs by trying to count the same PFDs multiple times and by yelling random numbers while the COs were counting. After pushing off to write a citation, the men again held up PFDs and said they had found additional PFDs on the boat and now had enough. Upon returning with the ticket, the COs again had them count the PFDs and they still only had six PFDs for the nine adults on board. One of the men who were lying about the number of PFDs argued that they “were close enough” but the COs reiterated the importance of marine safety and having properly fitted PFDs for all members aboard. A citation was issued for failure to provide PFDs.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** were on patrol on Big Manistique Lake when they encountered five men fishing. CO Vinson recognized the owner of the boat as the individual who had expressed concerns at a local meeting regarding the lack of CO presence on the lake and who also stated he had never been checked. Upon contact, three of the men stated they did not have fishing licenses, leaving only two licensed anglers aboard with eight lines being fished. A ticket was issued for fishing more than three lines.
- **CO Scott Pankow** stopped a watercraft for operating in an unsafe manner. The watercraft nearly hit CO Pankow and another vessel at a high rate of speed. The owner had documented the vessel with the United States Coast Guard (USCG) but had failed to register it with the State of Michigan (SOM). The operator was cited for unreasonable speed and the owner of the boat was cited for failure to display a valid SOM registration.
- **CO Mike Olesen, Cpl. Todd Sumbera, and Sgt. Calvin Smith** assisted with the annual Soo Locks Engineers Day in Sault Ste. Marie. The COs checked several watercraft during the event.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 7-7-2024 - 7-22-2024

- **CO Brandon Maki and EGLE Detective Josh Boudreaux** responded to a report of a sinking boat in Munising Bay. COs arrived to find a boat listing to its port side and barely above the surface of the water. The owner was on scene and attempted to pump the water out of the boat with no success. CO Maki requested the Munising City Fire Department; they arrived a short time later with a larger pump. COs, MFD, and the owner of the boat were able to pump enough water out to allow it to be towed to the city dock and have it placed on a trailer for inspection.
- **COs Steve Butzin and Brandon Maki** were patrolling near Au Train when they observed an individual operating a 3-wheeler without a helmet and in a careless manner. COs initiated a stop on the ORV and determined the machine did not have a valid ORV license. CO Maki issued the operator a citation for no helmet and issued warnings for the other two violations.
- **CO Brandon Maki** observed a side by side driving down the edge of a county road without an ORV registration. CO Maki initiated a stop on the side by side, contacted the operator, and issued a citation for failing to license his ORV before clearing the scene.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol when Delta County Central Dispatch put out a call of a serious ORV accident near his location. CO Butzin responded to the scene and discovered that a side by side had left a trail, traveled into a ditch, and struck several trees. One individual in the side by side was seriously injured when the roll cage broke and is believed to have stabbed her in the chest. This individual had no pulse and was not breathing when the officer arrived at the scene. Life saving measures were taken a HYFIN chest seal, tourniquet, AED and CPR were administered. Unfortunately, this individual was not able to be revived. The investigation was turned over to the Michigan State Police. RAMPART EMS and Tri-Star EMS assisted with medical care and PRO Towing assisted in removal of the side by side from the trail.
- **CO Michael Evink** received a call from a salmon fisherman who lost power to his boat approximately four miles south of Manistique Harbor. CO Evink loaded his patrol boat and met a Schoolcraft County Deputy Hatfield at the marina. The two officers patrolled out as a storm blew in and located the vessel at a slow idle speed. The officers guided the vessel in and assured it made safely to port.
- **District 2 COs** worked the Chicago to Mackinac sailboat races for two days and nights. Night patrols consisted of marine patrols around the island, in the state harbor, and on the island's streets. Compliance was good and spirits were high. Although rain did dampen the nighttime activities.
- While on marine patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn and Cpl. Mike Hammill** located a salmon fisherman who appeared to be fishing with too many lines. After making contact, it was determined the 2 fishermen had 8 lines out, 2 over the legal limit. A citation was issued for the violation.

- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a call while off duty from the local sheriff's department of a 43' sailboat in distress 6 miles from the port of Manistique. CO Freeborn met **CO Mike Evink** and a local deputy at the Manistique boat launch to assist the sailboat. The COs were able to locate the sailboat several miles east of town battling high winds and waves. It was found that the sailboat ran out of fuel and was unable to make it into the harbor. The COs followed the sailboat just outside of the harbor where they began to perform a side tow. Utilizing their patrol boat, the COs were able to maneuver the large sailboat through the harbor channel and safely to the fuel dock. The sailors were very grateful to the COs to be out of the wind and waves and safe for the night.
- **CO Mike Evink and Sgt. Mark Zitnik** responded to Grand Marias to assist the Alger County Sheriff's Office with a Felony Domestic Violence incident that turned into a barricaded gunman situation. The COs arrived in Grand Marias and teamed up with the Alger Counties Sheriff's Department, Michigan State Police, Pictured Rocks Park Rangers, and a Forest Service Officer. After the team briefed, they approached the man's residence he shared with his girlfriend and cleared the home and surrounding buildings. They then followed tracks into the woods where they decided to wait for a K9 unit. Shortly after the suspect was taken into custody near the home by Forest Service Officer Hughes who was keeping watch from an overlooking hill and observed the suspect attempting to sneak by. The Sheriff's Office is handling the investigation.
- **Sgt Mark Zitnik** was on patrol in Alger County during a busy Saturday, when he observed a UTV operating on State Highway M-94. The CO conducted a traffic stop and issued the operator a citation for operating on a public highway.
- **CO Justin Vinson** issued a citation to a charter boat captain who had failed to provide his required catch reports. CO Vinson had given the captain a verbal warning earlier in the month for the same violation.
- **COs Justin Vinson, Jason Ruth, Scott Pankow, and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were patrolling the straits of Mackinac during the Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac when they observed one sailboat displaying an expired registration. COs Vinson and Ruth contacted the captain who was unable to provide a valid registration. A citation was issued for failing to display a valid registration.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on ORV patrol of Luce County on a narrow stretch of road frequented by ORVs. In an area of blind corners CO VanOosten observed an ORV come around the corner at a high rate of speed. The operator locked up his brakes and exited the trail, narrowly missing the officer in his marked patrol truck. A traffic stop was conducted, and a citation was issued for operating at a speed greater than reasonable.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** assisted the Chippewa County Sheriff's Department with an investigation involving illegal use of state land. A man had been building an encampment and living remotely on state land. CO VanOosten and a deputy had located the camp (located mostly underground) approximately a month earlier. The officers documented illegal cutting of over 70 trees and the man blocking the road with trees to prevent access to his encampment area. Sheriff deputy's and CO VanOosten were able to contact the man in town to address the state land violations. The man was uncooperative with officers, refused to identify himself and was arrested for resisting and obstructing. It was determined upon arrest that the man was wearing high level ballistic body armor. A search warrant was obtained and executed on the man's backpack and the encampment on state land where an identification was discovered. In addition to the resisting and obstruction charge, the man received citations for the camping violations, cutting trees on state land, and blocking roads/trails on state land. The man was lodged at the Chippewa county jail, during his arraignment he continued to be uncooperative with the court and his bond was set at \$10,000. The illegal camping site was posted, and the subject served with a notice of trespass, giving the man a set amount of time to remove the property from state land.
- **COs Cole VanOosten and Jason Ruth** were on marine safety patrol when they stopped a boat pulling a tuber for a registration violation. It was determined that there were two children (age 2 and 5) on the boat who were not wearing personal floatation devices (PFDs). Upon inspection it was determine that there were no suitable PFDs on the boat for the children. A citation was issued for a child less than 6 without a PFD.
- **COs Rob Freeborn, Mike Evink, Mike Oleson and Cole VanOosten** assisted Mackinac Island Police Department during the annual Chicago yacht races. CO VanOosten was able to utilize his department issued bike to assist Michigan State Police Troopers with patrols on the island. The officers also assisted Mackinac Island PD with a drunk and disorderly guest at a local hotel.
- **CO Scott Pankow** was conducting an ORV Patrol on Drummond Island when he observed a side by side (ORV) operating without ORV registration or trail stickers. CO Pankow initiated a traffic stop and contacted the driver. CO Pankow was advised the operator of the side by side was from Minnesota and had bought stickers online 3 days prior to coming over to Drummond Island. The operator was cited for Failing to Display Decal.
- **CO Scott Pankow** was conducting an ORV Patrol on Drummond Island when he observed a side by side (ORV) operating without a seatbelt along with having too many people on the ORV for the number of seatbelts. CO Pankow initiated a traffic stop and contacted the driver. The operator was advised for the reasoning of the stop which he understood. The operator was cited for operating ORV without seatbelt and given a verbal warning for operating an ORV with more people than manufactured for. He also observed a truck traveling down M-134 with garbage falling out the back of it. CO Pankow initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle and advised the driver of the vehicle there was trash falling out of the bed of the vehicle all the way down the road and

the driver stated he wasn't aware of it. The driver was cited for Unsecure Load, and he picked up the visible garbage that fallen out of the back.

- **CO Scott Pankow** was on patrol in Kinross when he observed an ATV operating on a trail along M-80 without a helmet and noticed the ORV license was expired as well. He initiated a traffic stop and contacted the operator. The operator advised they just went to Kinross Raceway and their house was close so he thought he would be fine without it. CO Pankow issued a citation for Operating ORV without helmet and gave a warning for no ORV license.
- **CO Scott Pankow** was patrolling Detour Village and noticed a side by side (ORV) operating down the roadway without a seatbelt on. CO Pankow initiated a stop and advised the driver of the reason for the stop. The operator believed he did not need to wear the seatbelt due to the low speed. CO Pankow advised him it was required and issued a citation to the individual for operating an ORV without seatbelt.

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- **CO Andrea Dani** observed a vessel on Nawakwa Lake with an expired registration. Upon checking the anglers onboard, CO Dani discovered the three anglers did not purchase fishing licenses and did not have a Type IV throwable PFD. CO Dani issued citations to each angler for fishing without a license and warned the operator for operating an unregistered vessel and failure to provide PFD.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** were overtaken in their marked patrol truck by a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Officers followed and paced the vehicle at over 77 mph in a 55-mph zone. The operator was issued a citation for violation of basic speed law.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** observed a vessel on Nawakwa Lake with a registration decal expired in 2020. Upon contact, the operator revealed that his girlfriend bought the boat several years ago and never transferred the registration. A citation was issued.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was checking fishermen on AuTrain Lake when he observed a person in the distance fly fishing from a kayak. CO Maki approached the kayaker and observed there was no life jacket on board. CO Maki issued a citation to for no PFD.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Brandon Maki** were pulling into the Nawakwa Lake boat launch when they observed a boat just getting pulled from the water. COs observed a bucket of fish and asked to see the fishing licenses of the two fishermen. Only one individual had a valid fishing license, and the other did not. The individual stated that he was fishing without a license and knew he should have bought one beforehand. CO Maki issued citation for the violation.
- **CO Steve Butzin and Cpl. Mike Hammill** were on patrol heading towards Cedar River on M-35 when they encountered a vehicle attempting to pass on a corner. The vehicle was in the officer's lane of travel forcing them to drive off the roadway and onto the shoulder of the highway. The COs were able to turn around and conduct a traffic stop on the vehicle, the driver was issued a citation for careless driving.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** assisted MSP with a missing person in Schoolcraft County over the course of several days. CO Freeborn patrolled Lake Michigan with his patrol boat, utilizing down scan sonar and searched from land with his ORV. Several agencies are involved. An investigation is still ongoing. MSP is lead the lead agency.
- **COs Justin Vinson, Jason Ruth, Scott Pankow, and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were patrolling the straits of Mackinac during the Port Huron to Mackinac Yacht Race when they observed a dinghy without registration numbers or decal being displayed operate from shore out to a moored sailboat. After investigating, CO Vinson discovered that the owner failed to transfer the registration when he purchased the boat over a year prior. Violations witnessed included failure to display registration numbers, failure to display registration decal, failure to provide registration, failure to transfer registration within 15 days of purchase, and operate unregistered vessel. A citation was issued for operating an unregistered vessel.
- **CO Scott Pankow** was patrolling through Detour Village when he observed an individual operating a Side by Side (ORV) on the roadway without a seatbelt or helmet. CO Pankow initiated an enforcement stop on the ORV. The operator did not believe he needed to wear a seatbelt while going through town due to the speed. CO Pankow cited the operator for Operating ORV without seatbelt/helmet.
- **COs Scott Pankow, Jason Ruth, Justin Vinson, and Sgt. Smith** were patrolling near Mackinac Island during the Port Huron to Mackinac Yacht Race. CO Pankow observed two boats operating near the harbor that had expired. CO Pankow completed an enforcement stop on each boat and wrote both operators a citation.
- **CO Scott Pankow** was on ORV patrol near Paradise near when he observed a side by side (ORV) operating without any ORV license being displayed. CO Pankow initiated a stop on the ORV and the operator advised that he did not know they needed an ORV license. CO Pankow cited the operator for Operating without ORV License.
- **CO Scott Pankow** was on patrol when he observed a side by side (ORV) crossing M-28 on S. Hulbert Rd without the operator wearing a seatbelt and no ORV license being displayed. CO Pankow initiated an enforcement stop on the individual. The operator advised they forgot about the stickers and seatbelts. CO Pankow cited the driver for operating an ORV without seatbelt/helmet and gave a verbal warning for no ORV stickers.

- **CO Jason Ruth** was nearing the end of his days patrol when he observed an ORV being operated by an individual who was not wearing a required helmet. A citation was issued for operating an ORV without an approved helmet.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol when he received a call from central dispatch of a 14-year-old caught in a rip current in Lake Superior. CO VanOosten responded to the area. Upon arrival, CO VanOosten observed 4–5-foot waves in the area where the boy was last seen. CO VanOosten was able to remove his duty gear and put on his personal floatation device (PFD) before he launched the kayak and began looking for the boy. Weather conditions made searching extremely difficult, capsizing the kayak on several occasions resulting in CO VanOosten having to swim the kayak back to shore. CO VanOosten looked for the victim for approximately an hour and a half before the US Coast Guard arrived to take over the search. After returning from the water, CO VanOosten utilized his department issued ORV to search the beach for any signs of the victim, the search continued into the night. The following day, **COs Scott Pankow, Cole VanOosten, Lt. Kevin Postma and Sgt. Calvin Smith** returned to the area to assist the Michigan State Police Dive team in attempting to recover the victim. The victim was located via sonar and recovered by the divers of the state police dive team.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol when a call of a personal injury accident (PIA) was called out on a remote road in Mackinac County. CO VanOosten responded to assist. Upon arriving on scene, it was determined that both occupants were underaged unlicensed drivers who weren't wearing their seatbelts. The unlicensed and uninsured vehicle had been traveling at a high rate of speed before losing control and hitting a tree. Both the driver and passenger were transported to the hospital for treatment for their extensive injuries. A report was generated by the Mackinac County Sheriff's Department requesting charges in the crash.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** followed up on an investigation involving the illegal camping on state land. CO VanOosten and foresters from the Forest Resource Division patrolled to an illegal encampment that was recently vacated and posted in trespass by CO VanOosten. The foresters calculated the damage to the trees in the surrounding area that were used to fortify an underground bunker that the suspect had made and lived in. In total, it was determined that the man had cut 96 trees. A report was generated and submitted to the Chippewa County Prosecutors office for review.

Parks & Recreation Division (PRD): Eric Cowing, Eastern UP District Supervisor

Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island

- Lime Island Harbor Upgrade Project: Dock adjustability issue was remedied this spring.
- Brimley Utility Improvement (waterline/storm water replacement): Contract is in place with contractor. Contractor and sub were onsite March 13 for walk thru. Construction starts September 3.
- Lime Island Cultural Resource Plan Project. 50% review has been submitted and an extension for 90% has been requested.
- Brimley Underground Primary Electric/Transformer Replacement (Design/Build): New underground primary and transformer pads have been replaced and park opened on May 22 for campers. There was an issue with getting two new 3-phase replacement transformers in time. Contractor will return to install when they get them.
- DeTour Harbor Surge Protection System Improvements: Project was awarded with project start date of September 3.
- Vacant DeTour Seasonal Ranger Position: Currently screening candidates.
- Both units have lost one or two state worker positions over the course of the summer and will start to lose more when college starts.
- Brimley: Camping numbers have been tracking in line with 2023.
- DeTour State Harbor: Harbor numbers have been tracking in line with 2023.
- Lime Island Recreation Area: Cabin rentals have been tracking in line with 2023.

Fayette Historic State Park

- Townsite: Furnace wall replacement is going well and about 75% done with completion this fall. Townhall beam replacement completed in June.
- Park: Visitor Center ADA bids were due August 16, with a start date of fall 2024 and completion spring 2025. Replacement of five of the parks drain fields, bids back and with a start date of September 3 and completion in fall 2024. Asphalt road repair on campground road. Stained, roofed and landscaped townsite vault toilets.
- Portage Bay Campground: New fee pipe and information station installed, and new fire pits installed.
- Paranormal hunt will be held September 20 & 21 from 7pm-11pm.
- Fall Fest will be held October 4-5.

- June and July boating, camping and attendance mirror 2023 numbers. June attendance 13,000. July attendance 26,000. June camp nights 1,011. July camp nights 1,732. June boat nights 139. July boat nights 205.

Indian Lake State Park & Palms Book State Park

- Indian Lake phase 2 shoreline project is waiting on approval and a permit from EGLE which is expected by August 23.
- Seul Choix Lighthouse well pit project is complete.
- Indian Lake improvement project is in Phase 500 final review.
- Palms Book improvement projects are in phase 400.
- Palms Book is in design phase for new electric for the entrance booth.
- Some state worker staff are departing for the summer.
- The 10-year general management plan for Indian Lake State Park and Palms Book State Park was finalized and approved.

Muskallonge Lake State Park

- Construction of the West Campground toilet/shower building is complete with punch list items remaining for this fall after building closes for the season. Building opened for use on August 9.
- The new boardwalk to Lake Superior has a contract in place with construction to begin mid-September.
- Campground road paving project is currently out for bids.
- Beginning to lose summer staff as summer winds down.
- Campground well pump had to be replaced a few weeks ago which resulted in a day shut down to the campground as work was performed and water samples taken.

Newberry Field Office

- Improve backcountry road at Pretty Lake State Forst Campground.
- Brush road to Eckerman Trout Pond.
- Brush Lone Pine Road.
- District wide road grading.
- Stump removal at Indian Lake State Park boat launch.
- State forest campground and boating access site maintenance.
- In the process of filling the vacant Ranger A position.
- Have had moderate state forest campground and boating access site use.

Straits State Park/Mackinac Island State Harbor/Father Marquette Memorial

- DNR staff are planning a work project for the parking area at Brevort Lake boating access site site October 1-15. The work will define parking areas and traffic flow resulting in the parking to be more efficient and may increase capacity as the parking limits will be defined.
- Bids came in over budget for the Father Marquette learning commons and pow wow grounds. Currently working with contractor on value engineering to see if project can get off the ground
- Straits is conducting interviews to fill a permanent intermittent ranger position.
- The annual Port Huron to Mackinac and Chicago to Mackinac race were held in July with the racers docking at Mackinac Island Harbor.
- High Country Pathway will host a trails event in St. Ignace area August 21-25. A group hold was put on 6 months ago for 75 sites at Straits State Park and all sites were booked plus more.
- September weekends will be extremely busy and full of all the bridge events that will now happen again this year after taking a year off (Labor Day bridge walk, tractors across the bridge, semi-truck show crossing and Trek the Mac).
- Campground use has been steady filling most Thursdays-Sunday with some openings Sunday-Wednesday.
- State forest campground use has been on par as well and has increased a bit the last week of July and first week of August.
- Major staff shortages at Mackinac Island Harbor. We have hired minors to fill some holes, but ranger staff have consistently had overtime hours every week this season.

Tahquamenon Falls State Park

- Lower Falls Hemlock Campground Shower Building replacement: Opened to the public on July 26th and has been well received. There are several outstanding punch-list items that the contractor is working through.
- Lower Falls Portage Campground Electrical Improvements: Glen Construction LLC has been selected as the contractor for the project. Construction will begin after Labor Day and be complete by Memorial Day weekend 2025. The project will provide much needed upgrades to the electrical service in that campground loop, including adding an additional 15, 50-amp sites and providing each campsite with its own electrical service.
- Rivermouth Employee Shop Project: This project was bid out for construction two times, and we were not able to obtain an awardable bid.
- Upper Falls Brink Overlook: ASI Environmental from Ludington has been awarded the bid for construction, which will commence after Labor Day and is expected to be completed by July 31, 2025. The Upper Falls Unit will remain open through construction, with the 3 main viewing areas from above and the gorge steps remaining open.
- Lower Falls Water Distribution Project: Moore/Trosper has been awarded the bid for construction and will begin in late October 2024. The project is slated for completion in mid-May 2025.
- Non-career summer staff have begun to go back to school, leaving the park a bit short-handed. We're excited to announce however, that we'll be hosting an Americorps NCCC Team again this fall. They arrive in mid-September for 7 weeks and will be making accessibility improvements to the River Trail between the falls.
- The Tahquamenon Wilderness Canoe Race will be held on September 14 and features a 17.5 mile race from the Lower Tahquamenon Falls to the Rivermouth. The event is sponsored by the Paradise Area Chamber of Commerce and is a Michigan Canoe Racing Association(MCRA) sanctioned event.
- With both Lower Falls campgrounds being closed for construction this winter, we will be offering winter camping at the Rivermouth Unit for this year only.