



## Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

**Date of Production: June 2024** (information current as of 5/29/24)

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.

May 29	Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council, 6pm Eastern/5pm Central, Ironwood (906-226-1331)
May 31	Michigan Iron Industry Museum Advisory Board, 3 pm (906-475-7857)
June 5	Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, 6 pm (906-226-1331)
June 11	Michigan Iron Industry Museum Advisory Board, 3 pm (906-475-7857)
June 12	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, 9 am (517-284-5954)
June 12	Coldwater Resources Steering Committee, 10:30 am (989-778-0389)
June 12	Equine Trails Subcommittee, 1 pm (517-331-6219)
June 13	Michigan Natural Resources Commission, 9 am (NRC@michigan.gov)
June 26	Michigan State Waterways Commission, 9am (517-285-0747)
June 26	Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee, 2 pm (517-284-6135)
June 28	Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council, 10am (517-582-3204)

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#### 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](#)

*Stay tuned for lots of activities at UP State Parks when spring arrives!*

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#### Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- DNR announces numerous temporary construction closures (5/24/24)
- DNR News: Remember safety this Memorial Day and beyond (5/23/24)
- Showcasing the DNR: Acoustic telemetry helps reveal fish movements (5/23/24)
- Midwest Walleye Challenge: Catch fish, have fun, help the fishery (5/22/24)
- Over \$1.7 million in grants will benefit fish, aquatic systems statewide (5/21/24)
- Apply for bear and elk licenses (5/17/24)
- DNR News: Honoring fallen COs, hot firewood tips, state forest input and more (5/14/24)
- Kalkaska men arraigned, accused of torturing animals and illegal hunting (5/10/24)
- Showcasing the DNR: Bringing back 'the good berry' – efforts to restore manoomin (5/9/24)
- Bridge replacement project slated for Dickinson County (5/8/24)
- Some 're-leaf:' Limited and declining spongy moth populations continue in 2024 (5/8/24)

- DNR News: Hunter safety, Coffee with Commissioners, birding open houses, Beyond BOW (5/6/24)
- Natural Resources Commission meets May 9 in Acme; draft agenda online (5/3/24)
- Showcasing the DNR: Fading, fallen but not forgotten (5/2/24)
- Boaters, get ready for a summer on the water! (5/2/24)
- News Digest: Spring birding tour, invasive species action, CO webinar and more (5/1/24)
- Two elk or bear tags in one year? (5/1/24)
- DNR announces summer Beyond BOW events (5/1/24)

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## Grant Contacts

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

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|---|---|
| ▪ Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant     | Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, <a href="mailto:carlockm@michigan.gov">carlockm@michigan.gov</a>                                      |
| ▪ Recreation Passport Grant                       | Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, <a href="mailto:carlockm@michigan.gov">carlockm@michigan.gov</a>                                      |
| ▪ Michigan Spark Grants (Public Recreation)       | Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, <a href="mailto:carlockm@michigan.gov">carlockm@michigan.gov</a>                                      |
| ▪ Aquatic Habitat Grant                           | Chip Kosloski, 517-284-5965, <a href="mailto:kosloskic3@michigan.gov">kosloskic3@michigan.gov</a>                                   |
| ▪ Fisheries Habitat Grant Program                 | Chip Kosloski, 517-284-5965, <a href="mailto:kosloskic3@michigan.gov">kosloskic3@michigan.gov</a>                                   |
| ▪ Michigan Invasive Species Grant                 | Erin Campbell, 269-300-9698, <a href="mailto:campbelle6@michigan.gov">campbelle6@michigan.gov</a>                                   |
| ▪ Wildlife Habitat Grant                          | Clay Buchanan, 517-614-0918, <a href="mailto:buchanenc1@michigan.gov">buchanenc1@michigan.gov</a>                                   |
| ▪ U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant | Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, <a href="mailto:scullonh@michigan.gov">scullonh@michigan.gov</a>  |
| ▪ Forestry Grants                                 | <a href="https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/forestry">https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/forestry</a> |
| ▪ Land & Water Conservation Fund                  | Christie Bayus, 517-242-8737, <a href="mailto:bayusc@michigan.gov">bayusc@michigan.gov</a>  |
| ▪ Waterways Program Grants                        | Linnea Dawson, 517-290-2200, <a href="mailto:dawsonl@michigan.gov">dawsonl@michigan.gov</a>   |

## *Western UPCAC Update*

The **Western UP Citizens Advisory Council** will be meeting virtually on May 29, 2024. The agenda includes a Deer Management Initiative Update, discussion on several moose hunt questions following the DNR's response to the Council's resolution, update on the status of January and March council resolutions, a White-Nose Syndrome update and information about the state parks partnership with the Michigan Army National Guard (107<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion), specific to the Western UP. Updates form committee activity will round out the meeting. The next WUPCAC will be held on July 25<sup>th</sup> in Escanaba.

More information on both the Western and Eastern CACs can be found at [www.michigan.gov/upcac](http://www.michigan.gov/upcac).

## *May NRC Meeting Summary*

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission met May 9 at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Acme.

The session opened with a meeting of the Fisheries Committee where three presentations were heard.

- Robert Stuber, executive director of the Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition provided an overview and discussed various current dam issues.
- Kimberly Balke, program director for the Conservation Resources Alliance, talked about a historic dam removal leading to "The Boardman Ottaway River Reborn."
- DNR Fisheries Division Chief Randy Claramunt offered closing and summary remarks on dams and related conservation efforts.

Today's Director's Report at the NRC's Committee of the Whole session included:

- A recognition of former NRC Commissioner and Past-Chairwoman Carol Rose.
- Meghan Stevens of the DNR's Forest Resources Division discussed proposed Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 3 of 2024 concerning negative dispersed camping issues at Stoddard's Landing on the Rifle River, north of Omer, in Arenac County. The order would prohibit dispersed camping at the site.
- Sara Thompson, DNR wildlife division chief and Randy Claramunt, DNR fisheries division chief provided an update on cormorant management. The two divisions are working together using non-lethal and lethal means to address conflicts with cormorants and their impacts to fish populations.

- Brian Frawley, survey coordinator for the DNR's wildlife division, detailed results in the 2023 Deer Harvest Survey. Among the results, 1.4% increase in license buyers, 2% increase in the number of people going afield, 2% increase in the total number of deer harvested, 28% of hunters wanted to take one deer while 24% of hunters would take three or more deer.
- Chad Stewart, deer and elk management specialist with the DNR's Wildlife Division, provided the latest information on the Deer Management Initiative. A timeline for the effort was provided including individual reports due May 24 with actionable recommendations to the NRC at the June meeting. A June 26 work group meeting will be held. Decisions for deer season finalized at July NRC meeting. An opinion survey of participants on the Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula DMI committees produced favorable opinions of the process and other aspects of the effort.

In the new business portion of today's meeting, Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 3 of 2024 on Stoddard's Landing was presented for information, with action slated for next month's meeting.

Five land transactions from Dickinson, Barry, Grand Traverse, Lenawee and Clinton counties were signed by Director Bowen.

Under Old Business, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 4 of 2024 involving falconry regulations was approved by the commission.

The next NRC meeting will be June 13 at Lansing Community College – West in Rooms 119-121.

A legislative report was also provided and is listed below.

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### ***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](mailto:nrc@michigan.gov).
- If you would like further information or would like to address the Commission, please contact [nrc@michigan.gov](mailto: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](http://www.michigan.gov/NRC)).

### ***May 2024 Legislative Updates – Taylor Ridderbusch, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office***

#### **HB 5665 – Provides for Waiver of Hunters Safety Course – Rep. Hoadley**

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide for a waiver of hunter safety course for individuals with a valid concealed pistol license and military service members.

- The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Judiciary.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

#### **HB 5685 – Designates Official State Duck – Rep. Farhat**

This bill designates the Wood duck as the official duck of the state of Michigan.

- This bill has been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

#### **SB 803 – Extends Sunset on Pheasant License Fee– Sen. Cherry**

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to extend the sunset on the Pheasant License Fees.

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

## **SB 817 – Provide Appropriations from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund – Sen. Cherry**

This bill contains the recommendations made by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant awards for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The proposed appropriation totals more than \$27.3 million in project funding from the trust fund.

- The bill was passed by the Senate, received by the House and is awaiting committee assignment.
- 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**

*Emailed to both the WUPCAC & EUPCAC council members on 5/11/24.*

FWS PRESS RELEASE - Feb 2, 2024

## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completes status review and finding for gray wolves in the Western United States; launches National Recovery Plan**

**WASHINGTON** — Recognizing that the national discussion around gray wolf management must look more comprehensively at conservation tools available to federal, state and Tribal governments, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced a path to support a long term and durable approach to the conservation of gray wolves, to include a process to develop – for the first time – a National Recovery Plan under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for gray wolves in the lower 48 states. Today’s announcement does not make any changes to the legal status of gray wolves in the United States.

After an extensive peer-reviewed assessment using the best available science, the Service today announced a not warranted finding for two petitions to list gray wolves under the ESA in the Northern Rocky Mountains and the Western United States. This finding is not action-forcing; the legal status of gray wolves does not change as a result of this finding.

The Service conducted a comprehensive analysis using robust modeling that incorporated the best available data from federal, state and Tribal sources, academic institutions and the public. The model assessed various threats, including human-caused mortality, existing regulatory mechanisms, and disease. The analysis indicates that wolves are not at risk of extinction in the Western United States now or in the foreseeable future.

Gray wolves are listed under the ESA as endangered in 44 states, threatened in Minnesota, and under state jurisdiction in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and portions of eastern Oregon and Washington. Based on the latest data as of the end of 2022, there were approximately 2,797 wolves distributed across at least 286 packs in seven states in the Western United States. This population size and widespread distribution contribute to the resiliency and redundancy of wolves in this region. The population maintains high genetic diversity and connectivity, further supporting their ability to adapt to future changes.

### **Next Steps in Gray Wolf Management**

In a [February 2022 op-ed](#), Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland wrote: “I am committed to ensuring that wolves have the conservation they need to survive and thrive in the wild based on science and law... It is critical that we all recognize that our nation’s wolf populations are integral to the health of fragile ecosystems and hold significant cultural importance in our shared heritage.”

Debate over the management of wolves has included more than two decades of legislation, litigation and rulemaking. Wolf recovery to date has been construed around specific legal questions or science-driven exercises about predicted wolf population status. Courts have invalidated five out of six rules finalized by the Service on gray wolf status, citing at least in part a failure to consider how delisting any particular population of gray wolves affects their status and recovery nationwide.

To accomplish this and address the concern about nationwide recovery for gray wolves, the Service will undertake a process to develop a first-ever nationwide gray wolf recovery plan by December 12, 2025. Recovery plans provide a vision for species recovery that is connected to site-specific actions for reducing threats and conserving listed species and their ecosystems.

Facilitating a more durable and holistic approach to wolf recovery must go beyond the ESA. The Service also recently announced a new effort to create and foster a national dialogue around how communities can live with gray wolves to include conflict prevention, long-term stability and community security. These discussions, led by a third-party convenor, will help inform the Service's policies and future rulemaking about wolves, and include those who live with wolves and those who do not but want to know they have a place on the landscape.

States and Tribes have been important partners in managing gray wolves and will remain integral to their long-term conservation and acceptance on the landscape. This is important because the federal government's legal authority alone cannot address the variety of approaches to wolves that generate conflict. The states of Montana and Idaho recently adopted laws and regulations designed to substantially reduce the gray wolf populations in their states using means and measures that are at odds with modern professional wildlife management. The steps the Service is outlining today include continued work with state and Tribal partners, including nation-to-nation consultation, to create opportunities to craft enduring solutions that protect wolves and sustain human communities and livelihood.

More information is available on the Service's website including the 12-month finding, Species Status Assessment, Species Assessment Form, and Frequently Asked Questions. The finding will be available in the coming days in the *Federal Register* at <https://www.regulations.gov> at Docket No. FWS-HQ-ES-2021-0106.

For additional updates, visit the gray wolf web page online.

## **Finance & Operations: Becky Randazzo, Eastern UP**

### **Upcoming Season Dates**

June 1	Deadline to apply for bear and elk hunts
June 3	Muskie possession season opens
June 10-11	Free fishing and ORV weekend
June 17	Bass possession season opens on Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River, Detroit, boundary waters
June 26	Bear & Elk Drawing results posted on website
July 7	May apply for fall turkey hunts
July 8	Dog training opens; may also use dogs for night hunting (see Fur Digest)
July 15	May apply for the UP antlerless deer access permits; can also apply for reserved deer hunts
July 15	Opener for turtle seasons (snappers and softshells, see p. 22)
July 16	Sturgeon opener (for list of open waterbodies/regulations, see p. 15)

### **Division Inservice**

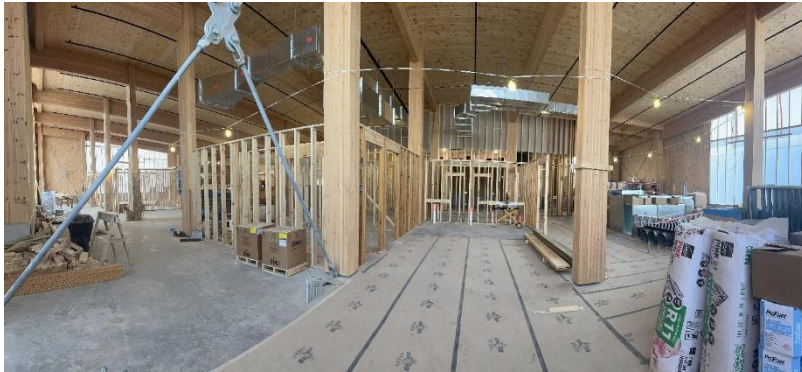
Statewide Finance and Operations Division staff had training days that highlighted many of the DNR's activities to help to better serve all customers. The trip began with a visit to Headlands International Dark Sky Park for a tour and history of the park. Presentations were put on by other divisions such as drone information and presentations, Law Enforcement vessels, Great Lakes Enforcement Unit, Wildlife Division, the Civil Service Commission, and a presentation by DNR DEI officer Robyn Afrik. The information provided will surely help division staff address the needs of both internal and external customers.

### **Mass Timber Project Update on the Newberry Customer Service Center**

- J Ranck is substantially complete with the underground telecommunications conduits from the building to the AT&T handhole near the road. They have started installing power and data rough-in boxes inside.



- Clark continues interior partition wall/ceiling layout and framing. They are also installing wood plugs at the mass timber column connections.
- Overhead ductwork installation is on hold until more interior build out is completed. Planning to install back hallway duct mains on 5/20.
- Murray Painting has mobilized and started applying the top two coats of sealer to the mass timber structure.
- L&L Contracting has mobilized, they are working on hanging and finishing drywall at areas that will be hard to access after



- mechanical systems are installed.
- Calvin & Co. is almost finished with fabrication of glass and aluminum for the exterior window system. They are planning to mobilize to site the week of 5/28.
- Spence Brothers will be onsite next week to continue working on the foundation for the building sign near the road.

**Wildlife Division: Dave Lemmien, UP Wildlife Supervisor (prepared by Kristie Sitar, Wildlife Biologist)**

**General Wildlife Reminders**

- Spring is a time for baby wildlife to arrive! Please leave baby animals alone! Young animals are often left alone, but the parents are not far away. For example, does leave their fawns for extended periods of time to help them stay safe from predators. Young animals are rarely abandoned and their best chance for survival is to remain in the wild.
- Spring can be a time for nuisance animal complaints due to less available food. To avoid bear problems, take down bird feeders (not just at night), remove or secure any other items that could attract bear including garbage and pet foods, and keep grills clean. Most bear complaints are resolved by removing food sources like bird feeders.

**Habitat Management**

- A prescribed burn (~ 90 acres) was completed in the Munuscong Wildlife Area of the Sault Unit to improve habitat for waterfowl, grassland birds like sharp-tailed grouse, and other wildlife.
- An initial prescribed burn for opening maintenance was performed on Drummond Island with more efforts planned for 2025 at this site.
- A 30-acre prescribed burn to aid in oak savannah creation was completed in the Shingleton unit.
- A 355-acre opening maintenance burn was conducted in the Shingleton unit to stimulate grass growth to benefit deer in a breakout area/migration corridor as well as expected benefits to sharp-tailed grouse and bear with future blueberry production.

**Outreach**

- Newberry Unit staff hosted a Woodcock Walk at the Halifax GEM last week. Attendees watched woodcock do their spring mating ritual dance and flight display and enjoyed a general woodcock information presentation while feeding the bugs themselves! This was the first event of its kind in the unit with similar events likely in the future.
- Newberry Staff hosted 25 youth and their parents for their second Youth Trapping Event on Saturday May 11th. Attendees went home with a bucket of trapping related goodies and gear as well as a self-constructed weasel box, and skills with muskrat trapping, fur handling, and knowledge of rules and regulations and animal identification.
- Newberry staff did classroom presentations at Three Lakes Academy and assisted with a birding event in Escanaba at Portage Marsh.



## State Forest Management

- Wildlife staff are conducting forest inventory in the field during spring and summer months in concert with the foresters. Watch for open house opportunities to become familiar with forest treatments later this summer and fall.

## Wildlife Surveys

- Spring is survey time for staff. Sharp-tailed grouse, ruffed grouse, and American woodcock surveys have all recently been completed across the UP. These surveys help staff in making assessments of population trends for the coming year.
- Staff conducted the wolf survey last winter and the winter population estimate will be coming out sometime in summer.

## Looking Ahead

- Oak and apple tree planting along the Silver Creek Birding Trail with MUCC assisting in the Newberry Unit on Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Invasive species monitoring and treatments including Black Creek Flooding to control the spread of wild parsnip.
- Work on the Shingleton unit to convert the old prison grounds to a variety of wildlife habitats (including native warm season grasses and clover, pollinator blends, mast producing trees and shrubs etc.) and some outreach components highlighting habitats and history of the area.
- Drummond Island bear surveys will be conducted to estimate bear populations.
- Waterfowl banding.
- Culvert replacement on the Strickler GEM.
- Work on converting a 40-acre degraded field to a pollinator blend in the Sault Unit.
- Outreach enhancements on the Shore to Shore Bird Trail, Silver Creek Bird Trail, Black Creek Flooding and Wildlife Activity Trail at the Blind Sucker Flooding.

## 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
Q3 Update: The Ionia culvert substantial completion walkthrough on June 11 <sup>th</sup> . Bridge delivered to Bear Trap site. 8 weeks to complete Beartrap. Waiting on funding for the Melstrand project.	Q3 Update: Waiting on approval and NEPA process from the USFS.

## Fisheries Division-Eastern UP – Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Biologist

- Staff held a virtual Lake Huron Conversations and Coffee meeting on April 3 to present new fishing regulations as well as seek input on proposed fishing regulations. The event was facilitated by Michigan Sea Grant and was well attended.
- NLH biologist gave a presentation about the Carp River watershed and other trout streams to a Rudyard science class.
- Fisheries Division staff (NLH biologist, Alpena research biologist, and Lake Huron Basin Coordinator) presented at the Sea Grant Workshop in Cedarville on April 30. Again, the workshop was well attended with updates provided on the Les Cheneaux Island fish community, cormorant management, sea lamprey, and the St. Marys River larval fish and habitat survey.

- Fisheries Division staff are working with Wildlife Division on implementing the new Department policy on the management of adverse beaver impacts on trout populations, which went into effect in mid-April. We are still learning as we implement the policy, but it is already increasing communication between the two divisions.
- In April, Lake Superior staff conducted walleye adult abundance estimate surveys on two Luce County lakes: Bodi and Culhane lakes. During the Bodi Lake estimate, crews marked 75 adult walleye and recaptured 15 during the recapture effort. During the Culhane Lake estimate, crews marked 94 walleye and recaptured 24 during the recapture effort. Calculated abundance estimates for Bodi and Culhane lakes were 0.8 and 1.4 adult walleye per acre, respectively.
- Lake Superior field staff deployed trail cameras at Sitka and West Johns lakes to assess angler effort and use. Assessing inland trout lakes using trail cameras has proven to be an effective method to monitor and estimate value of the fisheries. Both lakes are stocked annually with yearling brook trout, while in 2023 West Johns Lake was stocked with Arctic Grayling. The Arctic Grayling are retired adult broodstock from the Marquette State Fish Hatchery.
- Saint Ignace Schools first Salmon in the Classroom release occurred on May 14. Seven and eight grade students from Mr. Horricks science classes participated in the release event at the Carp River in Mackinac County. In November 2023, the school receive 100 Chinook salmon eggs. After hatching, the class fed fish and monitored water quality ever day through stocking day. Equipment for the program at Saint Ignace Schools was fully donated by the Fred Waara Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The school is looking forward to next year!
- Fisheries Division staff (Lake Superior biologist) assisted Alger Conservation District on the Au Train Lake habitat improvement project. A total of eight tree drops were completed in May as part of Phase II of the full project. Phase II is looking to install up to 50 woody habitat structures in the lake. The Au Train Lake habitat improvement project was funded through the Michigan DNR Fisheries Habitat Grant.
- Lake Superior field staff has begun spring netting surveys on area waters. Lakes to be surveyed in the Eastern Upper Peninsula this spring include Deer Lake (Alger County), Peck and Rye Lake (Chippewa County), and Batty Doe Lake (Mackinac County).

## **Forest Resources Division: Scott Lakosky, Eastern UP Supervisor**

### **Timber Sales**

#### *Newberry FMU*

- Offering 9 timber sales during April – May: To date, 2 sold hardwood sales with decent competition and 1 red pine salvage sale went unsold. 6 sales being bid out late May.
- Logging activity down from normal during this time of year. Market slumps continue for hardwood pulp, including Billerud issues. Mill quota limits have been severely reduced for many loggers and hardwood pulp is being decked and sitting on landings in the woods as a result.
- Timber sale preparation continues for 2024 sales by DNR Staff and contractors.

#### *Sault Ste. Marie FMU*

- Offered 7 sales between end of March and Mid-May. 5 sales sold and 2 went no-bid. One of the sold sales was a GNA sale.
- Currently 6 active timber sales on the Unit.
- FY 24 timber sale prep is well underway. Survey crews are setting some of the last corners required for FY24. Good progress is being made.

#### *Shingleton FMU*

- Offered and sold 5 pine sales since last report: 2 of which were a re-bid/previously no bid, and 3 of which were Class A access.
- Timber sale activity is moderate for this time of year on the unit however many jobs operating under low production mode due to pulp market quotas. Similar reports of products sitting on landings in the woods.



### *Forest Inventory*

- Winter/low ground field inventory has wrapped up for 2026 prescriptions across the district despite a challenging season.
- Timelines for data collection and data entry progressing across the district on time.

### **Cultivation**

#### *Planting*

- Spring planting season is complete across the district:
  - 1,323,548 tree seedlings planted across the EUP this season.
  - 415,800 Jack Pine
  - 888,650 Red Pine
  - 7,848 Red Oak – (oak planting project)
  - 11,250 White Pine – (special projects across the EUP and into WUP – wildlife, aesthetics, restoration, recreation, schools)
- Sault Unit staff planted 1500 white pine trees in a hardwood stand on Drummond Island.

#### *Site Prep*

- 962 acres of Roller Chopping to complete. First site in southern Shingleton Unit is underway.
- 1,817 acres of trenching to complete. Several sites completed across Shingleton and Newberry.
- 994 acres of scarification contracts to be completed by Holli Forest Products across the UP this summer. Just getting underway in western UP.
- 493 acres of aerial (helicopter) site prep to not start until after the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.
- 135 acres of skidder site prep work to begin later in June across the district.

#### *Other Cultivation Work*

- Pre-commercial thinning (PCT) contracts are scheduled to start in mid-to-late June. 66 acres in the district.
- Red pine fertilization project to promote increased seed/cone production is complete on the Newberry unit (40 site). Project entering the monitoring phase.

### **Fire**

#### *Newberry FMU*

- Daily fire staffing and standby occurring for springtime fire conditions.
- 1 Reportable fire response in the unit (0.4 acres) and 1 non-stat.
- Completed readiness checks.
- Participated in Luce County Emergency Plan Committee
- Members of the Incident Management Team (IMT) attended a UP wide meeting.
- 2 staff members were assigned to Prescribed (Rx) fire burn assignments downstate.
- Unit staff assisted adjacent forest management units to complete 2 Rx burns.

#### *Sault Ste. Marie FMU*

- 2 wildlife Prescribed burns completed on the unit; a 94 burn and a 35 acre burn on Drummond.
- 1 reportable wildfire suppressed with 4 non-stats.
- Burn line prep is in progress on the cranberry bog RX.

#### *Shingleton FMU*

- Spring staffing and standby occurring for springtime criteria.
- All fire equipment within the FMU is active and ready.
- 2 Prescribed burns completed in Southern Schoolcraft County. A total of 385 acres treated. The purpose of the burns was for opening maintenance and enhancement for wildlife habitat.

### **Road and Bridge**

#### *Newberry FMU*

- Completed seasonal repairs on Charcoal grade to unplug beaver plugged culverts.
- Graded 2.6 miles of Camp 6 road.

- Work that was started last year on 3 stream crossings along the Camp 7 Road Charcoal Grade; Penny Creek Bridge, Savage Creek Bridge, Linton Creek Culvert will be completed this summer. These roads will also see upgrades with fill replacement followed up with shaping and grading.

#### *Sault Ste. Marie FMU*

- Fire staff are grading the Cranberry Lake Rd. in the Naubinway part of the unit in preparation for a prescribed burn that is planned for later this summer.
- In the final planning stages with Huron Pines and Chippewa County Road Commission for replacing 3 crossings on the Beaver Tail Creek, one of which is on a state forest road. Construction is planned to begin after the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. Huron Pines is putting together a press release about the project.

#### *Shingleton FMU*

- Gravel bids out for CO projects including Ecklund Road.
- Worked with Manulife to re-deck the bridge over Walsh Creek on the Walsh Road.

### **Facilities**

- Staff completed Facility and Asset Inventories across the District.
- Newberry field office electrical and water supply repairs/replacements completed as well as new Fire shop radio speakers to improve Fire response.
- Shingleton garage ceiling work has started.

### **Good Neighbor Authority**

- Offered 3 Timber sales, all of which sold well over minimums: Class A access.
- One scheduled bid opening with a class A pine sale expected to sell.
- 2 currently active timber sales with 1 completed.
- Staff continue to prepare 2024 timber sales.

### **Land Use**

- All units across the district are reviewing fiber optic easement and surface use lease for a utility hut to be placed on state land.
- Newberry FMU issued permits involving soil survey beech bark research, Spring Creek Dam spoils dispersal & dryland sled dog race.
- Newberry FMU working towards resolution on a few trespass cases.
- Shingleton FMU reviewing right of way treatment for powerline maintenance.
- Sault Unit Finalizing easements for the US re-route near the Cut River Bridge
- Reviewing a private road easement on Drummond Island that involves several landowners who have formed an association.
- Approved a use permit for a wedding that will be hosted on state forest land on the shores of Lake Huron.
- Assisting landowners with use permit for road maintenance/construction on the state forest road that accesses their property.

### **Forest Health**

#### *Statewide Forest Health Pathologist*

- Forest health program staff surveyed some pockets of red pine mortality reported in the EUP, Armillaria was detected, no new Heterobasidion root disease (HRD) pockets have been found.
- Staff also led a tour for USFS State, Private and Tribal Forestry Forest health staff from the St. Paul field office to look at forest health in the EUP.
  - Tour stops included Caliciopsis canker on conifers, Eastern larch beetle on tamarack, beech bark disease, Heterobasidion root disease, Diplodia tip blight, and Armillaria root rot on red pine.

### **Commercial Forest**

#### *District Service Forester*

- Reviewing forest management plans

- Working on compliance cases
- Taking calls from landowners
- Administering timber sales on the Conservation Easement

### **Research**

- Cedar Regeneration research project field work has begun in the Western UP. Eastern UP field work to begin soon.
- MWR Hardwood regeneration research has provided data on silvicultural systems to use to promote acceptable northern hardwoods species regeneration. EUP Units have begun to implement these systems. Hardwood gap guidance document has also been produced further demonstrating the success of the research project.
- Sault FMU re-issued/approved a permit for research related to poleward migration of plant species in relation to mycorrhizal communities and how it relates to climate change.

### **Training**

- New staff in many positions across the district requiring frequent informal and formal trainings to learn Michigan DNR standard operating procedures.
- Sault FMU will be sending 2 staff to CDL school to obtain their class A CDL's.

### **Vacancies / Hirings**

- Newberry FMU filled vacancy for Fire Officer position. Unit is now fully staffed.
- Newberry FMU hired a forestry summer intern who has started.
- Sault FMU hired non-career fire officer in Sault Office 5/12.
- Shingleton FMU hired Fire Officer at Seney Field Office on 5/12.
- In process of filling other Fire Officer vacancy at Seney.
- Shingleton FMU hired GNA Forester at Shingleton Field Office.
- Rob Shields is working out of class (WOC) as the Fire Specialist in Marquette until June 8<sup>th</sup>. Joel Johnson is backfilling as WOC Fire Supervisor.

## **Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Chief**

### **Social media**

- The main Michigan DNR Twitter account has been verified and received official government “grey check mark” status. This increases our presence in the newsfeed/timeline. This is a new system Twitter rolled out recently.
- The DNR now has a QR code generator, allowing the department to customize QR codes for use on materials. Division project leads that could use an official QR code can work with their communications representatives and MOD.

### **DNR career video series**

- We are continuing to work on the career video series, which highlights various careers throughout the department via interviews, b-roll footage and still photography offering a glimpse of employees' careers. We will be switching focus to ensure the DNR's priority positions, those with the most vacancies (fire officers, foresters, and park rangers), will be the focus of filming in the next round.

### **Licensing**

- Printing of the 2024 Snowmobile stickers is set for June 7. We will be on site to do a “press check” when the vendor begins printing. This gives us plenty of time to have the stickers printed, sent to the MAI warehouse, and loaded into the sales system inventory before public sales begin September 1.
- We will meet with our Michigan Snowmobile and ORV Association (MISORVA) partners on June 14 to conduct the reconciliation of 2023 Snowmobile stickers issued through the MISORVA sales channel. Per our contract with MISORVA this annual sales reconciliation must be conducted no later than July 1.
- On May 18 we initiated a “cross-sale” feature on the license sales system that has been steadily increasing Sportsmen Against Hunger donations. With this feature, a “pop-up” box displays during certain sales transactions and asks customers if they would like to donate. This feature is on POS terminals, eLicense, and the mobile app. In

license year 2022, we averaged a donation rate of 2.79%. Since implementing the cross-sale feature we now are averaging a 5.04% donation rate.

### **Shooting Sports and R3**

- Range Activities
  - Ortonville shooting bench repair complete, and range reopened.
  - Construction of new ranges at Porcupine Mountains State Park, Barry State Game Area, and Marquette County to be completed by September 2023.
  - Range renovation at Echo Point Shooting Range in Allegan State Game Area has begun.
  - Design work continues for the new range development project in Roscommon County. Anticipate construction award summer 2023.
- Archery coordinator participated in the City of Detroit's [Kids to Park event](#) last weekend.
- R3 coordinator attended National R3 Symposium in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- Pheasants Forever coordinating "Learn to Wing Shoot" events at DNR ranges in June.
- June 13-15 NWTF holding BB shoot at Sleepy Hollow, Harrisville, and Clear Lake State Parks.

**MiCO (Mi Connect – DNR retail sales system):** MiCO released a new update on May 25. This update included:

- Kalkomey cleanup, converting all combination class users to reflect the 2 certifications on new import and existing records.
- Interstate Wildlife violator compact cleanup, which imported IWVC records now reflect all revocations as one record.
- New minimum quantity product feature for Wildlife to be able to sell DMAP deer permits in bundles.
- The MiCO team is also finalizing the project plans for change notice 1426 (Deer Harvest Report) and 1425 (Deer Permit Authorization Harvest Report).
- This project will run concurrent with normal sprint work starting this week.

### **Network and Technology**

- Wardens filmed segments including:
  - A successful turkey hunt with Director Lott
  - The 200<sup>th</sup> MUCC anniversary
  - The Ground event planting thousands of native wildflower seedlings to improve an oak-pine barrens habitat within the Huron-Manistee National Forest in a partnership with the the Michigan DNR and US Forest Service
  - A charity event hosted by the Bald Mountain Shooting range for the Rags Remembered Foundation. The "[Rags Remembered Foundation](#)" helps provide outdoors opportunities for kids and it was an honor to host their event.
- A new Tips and Tricks from MOD Technology staff – #23 SharePoint "Files Older Than 7 Years will be Deleted in June 2023" was issued this last month helping DNR personnel understand the retention of files in SharePoint.
- David Haupt gave a presentation on Using Technology to Engage and Collaborate for PRD professional development meeting.

### **Education**

- The education team accomplished Explorer Guide training for 35 seasonal employees that are now deployed around the state helping visitors feel confident and comfortable in the outdoors and understand Michigan's most pressing conservation issues.

### **Public Information Office: John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer**

- I attended a joint public event held at Wilderness State Park in the northern Lower Peninsula between the DNR and the Michigan Army National Guard. The public event showcasing the partnership the two entities have enjoyed for the past several years. The guard completed several projects at the park. I helped arrange for "Wardens" to film a segment at the event, which will air sometime between January and March 2025. A similar event will be held at Van Riper State Park on June 10, which is scheduled to be attended by DNR Director Scott Bowen. Over the next few

weeks, the National Guard will be partnering with the DNR to complete almost a dozen projects across Marquette and Baraga counties. In these projects, the DNR provides the materials, and the guard provides the heavy equipment work force. The activities serve as Innovative Readiness Training for the guard. I will be taking pictures and video at most, if not all the worksites.

- I attended a wide-scale search and rescue exercise at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park to help guide media and also help instruct an incident management team public information officer trainee. Dozens of people participated in the exercise. I took pictures for an upcoming Showcasing the DNR story on the two-day activity which posed a response to a missing Boy Scout troop.
- We are collecting story ideas for fall and winter. Please submit anything you might think would make a good story by sending me an email. We are still open for many summer stories too.

## **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 due to be remedied this Spring.
- Brimley utility improvement (waterline/storm water replacement): Contract is in place with contractor. Contractor and Sub were onsite 3-13-24 for walk-thru. Construction starts September 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Lime Island Cultural Resource plan project. Consultant has been researching and interviewing prior resident's family members.
- Brimley underground primary electric/transformer replacement (Design/Build). New underground primary and transformer pads have been replaced and park opened on 5-22-24 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<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.
- DeTour PI Ranger position: New PI Ranger starts June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Vacant DeTour Seasonal Ranger position posting closed & waiting for applicants from HR.
- Most STW's have started at DeTour and Brimley.... both units are pretty much fully staffed for the season.
- Brimley: Campground opened for the camping season on 5-22-24.
- DeTour State Harbor: Opened for the season on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Lime Island Recreation Area: Is scheduled to open for the season on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Park and Harbor staff have been busy finishing up small projects, getting ready for a busy camping season (electrical inspections, hazard tree removal, staining tables, replacing fire rings etc.)
- Commissioned staff attended ST recerts on 5-23-24 at Gaylord.
- Munuscong River campground and BAS has been busy since the opener of Pike and Walleye season on May 15<sup>th</sup>. On opening day, the BAS parking lot was over capacity.
- Conley Point BAS has seen an increase in usage since walleye opener.
- Unit Supervisor attended an EUP District Meeting at Indian Lake SP on 5-17-24.

### **Indian Lake State Park & Palms Book State Park**

- Indian lakes phase two shoreline restoration project has been put out for bids.
- Indian Lake State Park improvement projects are in Phase 500 review.
- Palms Book State Park improvements projects are in Phase 400.
- Seul Choix Lighthouse has awarded a bid for well pit improvements to be completed before October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Indian Lake has hired a janitor E4/E5 for the unit.
- All summer positions have been filled for the summer.
- The construction crew from the Western Upper Peninsula has finished repairs to the Wagner Falls walkway.
- Waiting on approvals to obtain a 4-acre parcel adjacent to Palms Book State Park from FRD.

### **Straits State Park/Father Marquette/Mackinac Island State Harbor**

- Straits upper toilet shower building projects still ongoing. The building is in use, but final completion still lingers on.
- The lift station is under construction at Father Marquette Park. The park and Memorial are closed due to this construction.
- Father Marquette/Heart of Great Turtle Island has gone out for bid. Pre bid meeting to be held May 30.
- Straits State Park PI ranger accepted a trails ranger position, so the PI has been posted and it closed on 5/24. The old ranger is still working at Straits in the interim.
- Straits State Park has a full STW staff.
- Mackinac Island Harbor is struggling to fill STW positions this season. The ranger staff and 2 stw have worked a little overtime to cover.
- With the construction possibilities happening at Father Marquette Park this year the POWWOW has been cancelled.
- Chicago to Mackinac race scheduled for July 14-17
- The 100<sup>th</sup> running of the Bayview to Mackinac race scheduled for July 21-24 and the committee says they have over 350 boats registered.
- Campground and harbor opened May 15 with good attendance so far.
- Even with the higher wage it is still difficult to fill STW positions in some locations such as Mackinac Island Harbor.

### **Tahquamenon Falls State Park**

- Lower Falls Hemlock Campground Shower Building replacement: The Construction schedule is showing delays to the progress of work. We are hopeful the building will open to the public sometime in July 2024.
- Lower Falls Portage Campground Electrical Improvements: Glen Construction LLC has been selected as the Contractor for the project. Construction will begin after Labor Day 2024 and be complete by Memorial 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: Is currently out for bids for construction.
- Upper Falls Brink Overlook: Is also out for bids for construction. 13 contractors attended the mandatory on-site pre bid conference.
- Lower Falls Water Distribution Project: Is thru design and will be put out for construction bids in the near future.
- Tomalou Squires accepted the Janitor position at Tahquamenon Falls State Park. She began her duties on 4/22/24.
- Non-Career summer staff hiring is almost complete, with the addition of employee summer housing greatly improving our recruiting efforts.
- The Two-Hearted Marathon will take place on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The race begins in Northern Luce Co. and ends at the Upper Tahquamenon Falls and is put on by Great Lakes Endurance.
- The Lower Falls Hemlock campground will remain closed until the new Toilet/Shower building is complete and can be opened to the public.

### **Newberry Field Office**

- R&R Vault Toilet at Lake Superior State Forest Campground.
- R&R 2 Vault Toilets at Pretty Lake State Forest Campground.
- State Forest Campground and Boating Access Site maintenance.
- In the process of filling the vacant Ranger A position.
- SPW's have all been hired and have started working.
- Have had moderate SFCG and BAS use. Has been very weather dependent.

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

Things are hopping across the district for our COs. Fishing, boating and ORVs are all in full swing along with several hunter safety classes being taught by our officers. The recent Memorial Day holiday weekend made that very apparent. We're also in the early stages of the hiring process for our next CO Academy slated for this fall which will hopefully help fill our vacancies. Below are some of the activity's officers have been involved in since our last CAC.

#### **DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 3-30-2024**

- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** investigated a report of a possible illegally taken antlered deer from the 2023 firearm deer season. The COs interviewed the suspect's father and later, the suspect. Both interviews, as well as photo evidence, verified the suspect had been hunting and had harvested a 7-point buck prior to purchasing a deer license. The deer was seized, and a report will be submitted to the Alger County Prosecutor's Office.
- **CO Steve Butzin** responded to a call of a fully engulfed structure fire in Delta County. CO Butzin was the first on scene and was able to relay to dispatch that the building on fire was an unoccupied barn and not a residential house as reported. CO Butzin directed additional responding units to the fire and aided the responding fire departments.
- **CO Michael Evink**, shortly after starting his patrol for the day, observed a single set of tire tracks in the fresh snow-covered road. After a few miles, the tracks turned onto state land. CO Evink followed the tracks and located an individual cutting standing live trees for firewood. The individual was issued a ticket for cutting trees on state land.
- **CO Michael Evink** contacted an individual who had a warrant issued related to taking a deer from his residence at night. The individual was cooperative and met CO Evink at the county jail to post bail and receive an arraignment date.
- **CO Jason Ruth** received a complaint of several cedar trees being cut down at a local boat launch in Mackinac County. CO Ruth responded to the scene and found several cedar logs cut into lengths for making lumber. It wasn't long before an individual pulled into the launch and confessed to CO Ruth that he was the one who had cut down the trees and was going to saw them into lumber to make a sauna. A report will be submitted to the Mackinac County Prosecutor's Office for the illegal cutting of trees.

#### **DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 4-13-2024**

- **Female COs** from across the state, as well as dispatchers, attended a Michigan State Police (MSP) training in Grand Rapids. The two-day Women in Law Enforcement conference featured many speakers from across the country. Officers were told stories of resilience and were reminded of the importance of mental health and working together with other females in law enforcement.
- **COs Michael Evink and Steven Butzin** assisted the Schoolcraft County Sheriff's Department in contacting a suicidal male. CO Evink drove by the residence and noticed the individual was outside near his truck. CO Evink contacted the individual, had a conversation, and determined there was no immediate threat.
- **CO Michael Evink** responded to an ORV accident around midnight on a back county road. CO Evink assisted EMS and the MSP on the scene. Both individuals were transported to the hospital with injuries. Alcohol and speed may have been factors.
- **CO Steve Butzin** responded to a "be on the lookout" for a vehicle attempting to run another vehicle off the roadway. It was reported that the vehicle was purposely following the caller and driving erratically. CO Butzin located the vehicles and was able to conduct a traffic stop on the suspect vehicle. Further investigation discovered that the driver was operating under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested for operating while intoxicated (OWI) and lodged at the Delta County Jail.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol in Garden Township when he responded to a report of a grass fire. The fire ultimately burned approximately five acres of a grass field in a populated area. Further investigation discovered that the fire had been set intentionally. With assistance from the MSP Audio-Video Analysis Unit, a suspect was developed through several security cameras in the area that caught one suspect throwing several items that were on fire into the field. A report is being submitted to the Delta County Prosecutor's Office pending charges.
- **CO Scott Pankow** assisted several agencies with rescuing a lost person in the Hiawatha National Forest near Raco. Chippewa County Dispatch was able to talk to the lost individual via cell phone and CO Pankow activated his patrol vehicle siren. Shortly thereafter, the suspect walked out to the sound of the siren and was in good health.
- **COs Scott Pankow and Mike Olesen** taught a Hunter Safety Class to 20 students in Chippewa County.
- **CO Justin Vinson** checked several anglers along the Two Hearted River. While patrolling the river, CO Vinson located an unmarked campsite on state land. Later in the patrol, CO Vinson contacted an angler camping at the site. A verbal warning was given for camping on state land without posting a camping registration card.

#### **DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 4-27-2024**

- **CO Michael Evink** responded to a small brush fire near his residence. The fire was started by a downed powerline. CO Evink contacted dispatch and the power company and stayed on scene until fire personnel and Cloverland Electric were present.
- **COs Michael Evink and Andrea Dani** participated in a fundraiser for the Munising High School Senior class. The game consisted of local law enforcement versus the Seniors from Munising High School. The game was close with the seniors winning on free throws with no time left on the clock.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** volunteered at one of the local schools for their annual school carnival. The carnival is open to the public and consists of several activity stations for the kids to play throughout the school and gym. CO Freeborn along with local law enforcement took shifts running the "jail" where kids could place a person of their choosing in "jail" for three minutes. This is one of the most popular games offered at the carnival and was a great chance for law enforcement to interact with their community.
- **CO Brandon Maki** observed a vehicle parked at the Rock River after dark and believed someone may have been taking steelhead illegally. CO Maki walked down to the river where he observed two headlamps in the open section of the stream. Then CO Maki



watched the two individuals fish from a distance before they walked towards him. The two anglers walked right by CO Maki without noticing him and one began fishing in the closed section of the stream. CO Maki issued a citation for fishing in a closed stream for spawning purposes.

- **Sgt. Mark Zitnik** was off duty and on his way to go fishing when he observed two individuals fishing in the closed section of the Rock River. Sgt. Zitnik identified himself as a conservation officer and contacted the anglers. Sgt. Zitnik called CO Brandon Maki who was patrolling nearby and informed him about the violations. CO Maki made his way to their location. When CO Maki arrived on scene, he issued one citation to each angler for fishing in the closed section of the stream, and seized one steelhead that was caught in the closed area. After receiving the citations, one angler became upset and broke his fishing rod into multiple pieces.
- **CO Scott Pankow** assisted the DNR Wildlife Division with relocating a nuisance bear from Drummond Island.
- **CO Scott Pankow** assisted the Chippewa County Sheriff's Department after they completed a search warrant on a residence and located multiple DNR snowmobile, ORV, and other directional signs that had been stolen from the trails.
- **CO Scott Pankow** contacted an individual fishing on the closed section of the Pine River. The individual was issued a citation for attempting to take a trout/salmon on designated streams during the closed season.
- **CO Mike Olesen** responded to a call of an illegally harvested turkey within the city limits of Sault Ste. Marie. CO Olesen responded to the scene and contacted two individuals. After a short interview, it was determined that the turkey had been harvested without a valid spring turkey license, had been taken in a manner that was in violation of the safety zone, and in violation of multiple city ordinances. CO Olesen seized the turkey and the firearm that was used. A report is being submitted to the Chippewa County Prosecutor's Office for review.

#### **DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 5-13-2024**

- **CO Andrea Dani** assisted with District 1's First Aid Training. Officers were taught the MARCH acronym for order of first aid response; about tourniquet deployment; and use of NARCAN for overdose victims.
- **CO Steve Butzin** assisted the Delta County Sheriff's Department and Michigan State Police in the search for a missing kayaker in Little Bay de Noc. After a several days search the missing kayaker was located deceased in the bay. Agencies utilized side scanning sonar, under water cameras, and dive units in the recovery of the individual. It was later determined that this individual was not wearing a personal flotation device while operating the kayak.
- While returning to his residence, **CO Robert Freeborn** received a call from local dispatchers regarding a B&E in progress at a local camp. CO Freeborn was advised he was the only officer available to respond currently. Upon arrival, it appeared that the suspect had already left the scene. After checking the camp no forced entry was observed. CO Freeborn contacted the landowner and confirmed that he had a notification on his camera someone was around his gate and walked towards his camp and figured they were going to break in. CO Freeborn reviewed the pictures provided by the landowner and determined that it was a forester from a local timber company and that he was only there to check on the adjacent land owned by their company.
- **CO Michael Evink** arrested an individual on an outstanding warrant from the firearm deer season. The individual was lodged at the Schoolcraft County Jail.
- **COs Michael Evink, Robert Freeborn, and Steven Butzin** attended a training on how to use Facial Recognition software and how MSP can assist with Facial Recognition and audio-video enhancement.
- **CO Justin Vinson** instructed a 4-day hunter safety education course that was held in Engadine.
- **CO Jason Ruth** was checking fishermen on South Manistique Lake when an elderly gentleman had come in just before the storm excited that he had caught his limit of 25 panfish. Upon checking his fish, he was found to be one fish over his legal limit. The man was given a warning for being over his limit of panfish.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on patrol in Chippewa County when he received a call regarding a burn on a day no burn permits were being issued due to weather conditions. CO Olesen arrived on scene and observed an active burn of wood planks. CO Olesen was on scene for approximately 15 minutes before an individual returned to tend to the fire. The property owner was cited for failing to tend to an active fire and burning without a permit.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol of Mackinac County when he observed an ORV approach a state highway. CO VanOosten watched as the operator waited near the highway until CO VanOosten was out of sight. CO VanOosten stopped and watched at a distance as the man turned onto the state highway and began operating at a high rate of speed towards the next county road. A traffic stop was conducted, and the man was issued a citation for operating on the state highway. This was the man's third citation for an ORV related offense.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** put on a hunter's education field day at the Hiawatha Sportsman's club. Stations included rifle, shotgun & archery shooting, and a trapping demonstration.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** assisted wildlife division staff in completing a kids trappers' workshop in Mackinac County. This 5-hour course covered different types of trapping, including what is legal and ethical trapping, as well as fur handling. Divisions involved in assisting included FOD, PRD, WLD, FISH and LED. Approximately 26 kids attended along with numerous parents who also participated with their children.

- **CO Scott Pankow and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were patrolling the St. Mary's River when they observed a boat being operated with an expired registration. They made contact with the operator and asked if they had a valid registration. The operator stated that he had purchased the boat last summer and thought that he had one. A quick check with Station 20 (DNR Dispatch Room) revealed that the boat was never transferred to the new owner as required. A citation was issued for operating a boat with expired registration and a verbal warning was given for failing to transfer title.

#### **DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 5-27-2024**

- **COs Andrea Dani and Brandon Maki** were about to leave the Shingleton DNR office when they observed a side by side operating against the flow of traffic off of state highway M28. The COs caught up to the ORV and could only observe and expired 2023 ORV sticker. COs passed the side by side and waited a short distance up the road. The side by side pulled along CO Maki who was standing there waiting and the operator instantly stated he knew the machine didn't have a valid ORV sticker and he was on his way to the gas station to buy one. COs explained to the operator about his violations and where he could and could not operate. CO Maki issued the operator a citation for failing to display a valid ORV license and gave warnings for operating against the flow of traffic and operating on a public highway right of way. COs observed the same side by side later in the day with a valid ORV license.
- While checking anglers on Nawakwa Lake in Alger County, **CO Andrea Dani** observed a motorized vessel with three occupants fishing. Upon checking them, the operator admitted he knew he did not have PFDs for everyone on board. He displayed one throwable PFD. The need for the safety devices was discussed and a citation was issued.
- While checking boaters at the AuTrain Lake boat launch, **CO Andrea Dani** observed a new vessel with strange and lengthy registration numbers displayed. Upon verifying the paper registration, CO Dani informed the owner that he had labeled his vessel with his hull identification number instead of the registration number. He was advised to change the numbers.
- **CO Jason Ruth** assisted the Michigan State Police with a Personal Injury Accident. The traffic crash happened on US-2 near H-33. Three vehicles were involved with one pulling a trailer hauling a large storage container. CO Ruth assisted with gathering information from witnesses and with traffic control.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was finishing a day of patrol when a call for a lost elderly mushroom picker came out. The wife of the missing man waited in the car while her husband went to look for morel mushrooms on an area of state land. After waiting for four hours, the wife left to call for help. The woman was unable to find the location of where her husband had exited the vehicle but remembered no trespassing signs and aspen trees. In an area of thousands of acres of state land and not having much to go on, **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** used their knowledge of the area to narrow down where the man may have walked into. The COs were able to define a search area by matching tracks in the dirt to the vehicle the man and wife had been driving and walking roads looking for foot tracks. A short time before dark the man was able to self-rescue and call 911 to inform that he was safe and out of the woods. Assisting agencies included the Luce County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police K-9 team.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on marine patrol when he encountered a group fishing out of a boat in a quiet area where motorized boats are prohibited. CO VanOosten observed the men trolling using a 15hp motor around the lake several times. Upon contact it was also determined that the boat did not have enough personal flotation devices (PFD) for the members aboard. A citation was issued for no PFD's and a warning was issued for using a motorized boat where prohibited.
- **COs John Kamps and Cole VanOosten** conducted a marine safety patrol of the Dead River basin when they contacted a group of 8 fishing. It was determined that 6 of the 8 fishermen did not have fishing licenses. Citations were issued for fishing without a license.
- **COs John Kamps and Cole VanOosten** were on marine patrol when they encountered two unattended fishing poles in front of a residence. The COs waited by the lines for approximately 20 minutes before they attempted to contact the owner at the front door. After knocking on the door, it was determined that nobody was home. The COs contacted a nearby fishermen who stated the man had not been out at the dock for several hours. The COs were able to find a phone number for the man and give him a call. The man then returned to the residence a short time later and was issued a citation for the unattended lines.
- **CO Scott Pankow** initiated an enforcement stop on a watercraft on the Munuscong Bay after watching the watercraft operate in excessive speeds while moving in and out of nearby vessels. After speaking with the operator, a citation was issued for operating in an unsafe manner.
- **CO Scott Pankow** was conducting an ORV patrol in Raber Township when he observed two four-wheelers operating on the roadway without valid ORV licenses being displayed. The operator of one four-wheeler was also not wearing a helmet and was cited accordingly, he was also given a warning for failing to have an ORV license. The operator of the other four-wheeler was cited for failing to have an ORV license.
- **CO Scott Pankow** was on ORV patrol on Drummond Island when he observed multiple ORVs operating on M-134 highway. CO Pankow met with the operators of all the ORVs. One individual was cited for operating on a public highway and another individual was cited for failing to have an ORV license. Later that same afternoon, CO Pankow observed another ORV operating on M-134 and an enforcement stop was initiated. That operator was also cited for operating on a public highway.

- **CO Scott Pankow and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were working an ORV patrol in the Paradise area when they observed an individual operating a side by side without wearing a seatbelt. That individual was cited for failing to wear his seatbelt.
- **CO Scott Pankow and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were working an ORV patrol when they observed an ORV operating on M-123 which is a State Highway. A traffic stop was made, and the operator stated to CO Pankow that he wanted to drive to the Tahquamenon Falls but was turned around by Park Staff due to his SXS not being properly plated. The operator was issued a citation for operating on a Public Highway.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Jason Ruth** had just finished patrolling the Tahquamenon River when they heard a call of a women having a seizure on the shoreline of Lake Superior. Deputy Kietzman of the Luce County Sheriff Department responded to the call, and asked the two COs if they could assist. COs Vinson and Ruth unhooked their patrol boat and responded to the call. Once the woman was located, she was still unconscious. CO Vinson asked Muskallonge Lake State Park Rangers Jeff Freeborn and Kelly Gribbell to bring a UTV down a nearby two track that leads to the beach. The two COs, Luce County Sheriff Department, and Luce County EMS loaded the women onto Muskallonge Lake State Park's UTV where she was driven off the shoreline to the nearest county road and transported by Luce County EMS to Helen Newberry Joy hospital for further evaluation.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Jason Ruth** patrolled the Les Cheneaux Islands for marine and fishing activity. Catch rates were moderate with most anglers reporting catching large numbers of smaller Pike. One boat was observed without a valid registration and was unable to provide a throwable device. A citation was issued for the registration violation and a verbal warning was given for failing to provide a PFD.
- **CO Mike Olesen** responded to a call of a motorcycle personal injury accident in Chippewa County. CO Olesen was the second on scene behind a Michigan State Trooper. CO Olesen and the Trooper provided aid to the individual injured in the crash until EMS arrived on scene and took over care for the individual. The subject was transported to the local hospital and then to another facility downstate for further treatment.