



## Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

**Date of Production: April 2024 (information current as of 3/28/24)**

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.

April 4	Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council, 6pm, Manistique (906-226-1331)
April 10	Lake Michigan Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee, 10:30am (616-490-5090)
April 11	Natural Resources Commission, 9am, Lansing ( <a href="mailto:nrc@michigan.gov">nrc@michigan.gov</a> )
April 17	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, 9am (517-284-5954)
April 17	Forest Management Advisory Committee, 1pm (517-582-3220)
April 17	Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee, 2pm (517-284-1331)
April 18	Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup, 10am (517-331-6219)
April 18	Tribal Co-Management Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee (New), 10am, 231-350-8654)
April 19	Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council, 8:30am (517-582-3220)
April 22	Warmwater Resources Steering Committee, 10am (517-388-7759)
April 26	Michigan State Waterways Commission, 9am (517-285-0747)
May 9	Natural Resources Commission, 9am, Traverse City ( <a href="mailto:nrc@michigan.gov">nrc@michigan.gov</a> )
May 29	Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council, 6pm Eastern/5pm Central, Ironwood (906-226-1331)

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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 News Digest: Eclipses, e-bikes, ORVs and more (3/25/24)
- Plan now for spring treatment of hemlock woolly adelgid (3/25/24)
- DNR hiring conservation officers for January 2025 training academy (3/22/24)
- Showcasing the DNR: Rare historic steam locomotive returns to Iron Ore Heritage Museum in Marquette County (3/21/24)
- On World Water Day, focus on Michigan's forests, Great Lakes (3/21/24)
- Keep bears at a distance – remove bird feeders now (3/20/24)
- April 17 public meetings regarding metallic mineral lease applications (3/20/24)
- April 16 public meetings regarding metallic mineral lease application (3/20/24)
- NotMISpecies webinar: Engaging the Boating Industry in AIS Prevention (3/18/24)
- Purchase your Michigan ORV license and trail permit (3/18/24)

- Allowable e-bike use would expand with land use change (3/15/24)
- Quick and effective actions save ice fisherman in Ontonagon County (3/14/24)
- Showcasing the DNR: Developing a new way to estimate UP wolf abundance (3/14/24)

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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** called a virtual meeting the day of March 25, 2024 in lieu of meeting in person due to a winter storm coupled with rain/freezing rain creating hazardous driving conditions across the western UP region. The group had a hefty agenda with a Michigan Wildlife Council update, a presentation on nearshore boating effects on aquatic habitat and local watercraft control process, UP deer camp survey results, DMI update, and two resolutions presented by the Fisheries Committee pertaining to fisheries revenue increases to include deliverables and opposing expansion of underwear spearing. Both resolutions had significant discussion prior to passing by majority vote. The next WUPCAC will be held on May 29<sup>th</sup> in Ironwood.

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

## March NRC Meeting Summary

The Natural Resources Commission met on the downtown campus of Lansing Community College on March 14, 2024. Ed Golder, DNR Public Information Officer, was unable to attend, so he provided only the highlights, including the major actions that were taken:

The Commission approved revised [furbearer regulations](#). These changes will:

- Change the bobcat trapping season in the Upper Peninsula, retaining the same number of days in the season but shifting dates for better conditions and to avoid conflict with the firearm deer season.
- Allow a second bobcat tag to be used on both private and public land in Unit A, which is most of the Upper Peninsula. Currently the second tag can be used only on private land in this unit. The proposal will expand opportunity.
- Change fisher and marten bag limits. Currently, the bag limit is two, of which only one can be a fisher. The change will allow for the harvest of two of any combination. The change will simplify regulations and expand opportunity.
- Allow centerfire firearms of .269 caliber or less to be used at night in the limited firearm deer zone on public and private lands to hunt coyote, fox, raccoon, and opossum. Currently, centerfire firearms are allowed in this zone – which is in the southern Lower Peninsula -- on private land only. The change will increase opportunity and simplify regulations with no expected safety concerns.
- Change the coyote hunting season statewide to July 15 through April 15. Currently coyote hunting is allowed year round. The change will avoid the time when coyotes have dependent young, and it will be consistent with our

management of other species. The change will also address potentially negative public perception regarding coyote hunting and will not significantly affect harvest. People can still take coyotes year round on private land to address damage.

Director Scott Bowen approved five land transactions. Details of those transactions can be found in [the NRC agenda](#).

Other topics of presentation and discussion at the meeting included:

- An [update on invasive carp](#) by Lucas Nathan of Fisheries and Tammy Newcomb of Executive in the Fisheries Committee.
- A presentation on White-tailed Deer Predation in the Upper Peninsula by Jerrold Belant of Michigan State University in the Wildlife Committee.
- A Hunter Education 40 Years of Service Award presented by Law Enforcement Division Chief Jason Haines to recipient Gerry Dibble.
- The presentation of the Wildlife Annual Report by Dustin Isenhoff of the Wildlife Division.
- A [presentation on the 2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons](#) by Barb Avers of Wildlife.
- A [presentation on proposed changes to Elk Regulations](#) by Chad Stewart of the Wildlife Division.
- An update on the Deer Management Initiative by Chad Stewart.

A more complete NRC recap will resume next month.

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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)).

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

**HB 4021 – Include Definition of Peace Officer in ORV Laws – Rep. VanderWall:** The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow seasonal deputies, those not certified by Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) that have limited authorities, to work specific ORV patrols, similar to marine or snowmobile deputies that are currently allowed.

- The bill was signed by the Governor on 11/22/23, becoming PA 210 of 2023 effective 2/13/24.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

**HB 4515 – Removes sunset on ORV License Fees – Rep. Hill:** This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to remove the sunset on ORV License Fees.

- The bill was signed by the Governor on 11/22/23, becoming PA 217 of 2023 effective 2/13/24.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

**HB 4682 – Modifies the Responsibilities of Property Owners Under the Recreational Trespassing Law – Rep. Slagh:** This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require property owners to post signs at an interval of not more than 250 along the boundary of the property.

- The bill was reported with recommendation from the House Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation and is awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration is neutral this legislation.

**HB 5428 – Includes Recreation Passport Fee in Renewal of Vehicle Registration – Rep. Brixie:** This bill amends the Michigan Vehicle Code to include the fee for the Recreation Passport in the vehicle registration renewal fee, with the option to opt out and receive a refund by mail.

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

**SBs 103, 104, 105 – Provide Regulations for Commercial Hunting and Sport Fishing Guides – Sens. Cherry, Daley and McCann:** These bills would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide for the licensure and regulation of commercial hunting and sport fishing guides and to provide the Natural Resources Commission with the exclusive authority to regulate hunting and fishing guides.

- The bill was signed by the Governor on 11/22/23, becoming PA's 220, 221, 222 of 2023 effective 2/13/24.
- The Administration is in support this legislation.

**SB 441 – Provides Management and Regulation of State and Tribal Fisheries – Sen. Shink:** This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to update the requirements and penalties for submitting catch activity reports by charter boats, commercial fishers and wholesale fish dealers.

- The bill was signed by the Governor on 11/29/23, becoming PA 239 of 2023 effective 2/13/24.
- 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**

March 14, 2024 - Contact: [Lt. Ryan Aho](#), 906-235-7396

#### ***Quick and effective actions save ice fisherman Lake Gogebic in Ontonagon County***

Sixty-three-year-old Paul Boehm of Ontonagon is lucky to be alive today after falling repeatedly through the weakening ice of Lake Gogebic Wednesday afternoon.

At about 4:30 p.m. CDT, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officers Jennifer Hanson and Zach Painter were notified by Negaunee Regional Dispatch that a man had gone through the ice near Merriweather in Bergland Township.

At 13,380 acres, Lake Gogebic is the Upper Peninsula's largest inland lake, spreading across portions of Ontonagon and Gogebic counties. The lake is popular with anglers for its jumbo perch and walleye fishing.

Local temperatures had reached the low 50s by Wednesday afternoon.

A lakefront homeowner, Sue Barrette, who lives along Old M-28 near the Hoop 'N Holler Tavern, had called emergency dispatch after hearing Boehm yelling and seeing him crawling on the ice.

"She said she saw him sprawled out on the ice and a few moments later, saw him break through, and observed only his head above water," Hanson said. "She tried to reach him by paddle board but was unsuccessful due to a layer of ice that had him trapped in deeper water."

Barrette yelled to Boehm, telling him to "Hold on," reassuring him help was on the way.

When Hanson arrived, Boehm was well over 100 yards offshore. His wife would later tell police his ice shack was located a mile out onto the ice.

Conservation Officer Painter and Michigan State Police Trooper Paul Maxinoski of the Wakefield Post waded through waters near shore and attempted to help Boehm by throwing him a line with an ice rescue bag, but he could not pull himself out of the ice.

The two officers reached Boehm.



Rescuers from the Bergland Volunteer Fire Department and the Bergland Volunteer Fire Department arrived on the scene. Firefighters rowed a rowboat from shore up to the ice.

After the firefighters got out, Maxinoski pulled the boat over the ice to where Painter and Boehm were. They then secured Boehm in the boat.

Hanson and a Bergland firefighter waded out across the nearest section of water to the ice to help pull the boat to shore as Maxinoski worked to break ice with a paddle.

Lt. Steve Amsler from the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission arrived with an ice immersion suit and helped break the ice free to the boat so it could be rowed to shore.

Boehm was taken first by Sonco Ambulance and later by Beacon Ambulance to Aspirus Ironwood Hospital in Ironwood. The Lake Gogebic Fire Department and deputies from the Ontonagon County Sheriff's Office also assisted with the incident.

At about 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, Boehm was released from the hospital and was reportedly resting at home today complaining of minor ailments, including raw and numb fingers and bruised legs.

Hanson spoke with Boehm's wife this morning, who said Boehm was doing well.

"While he was exiting the ice yesterday, he first fell through about 100 yards from his shack. He had fallen through a few more times but was able to kick himself out of the water and self-rescue," Hanson said. "He crawled on his belly for quite some ways, but when he had fallen through again, he was so cold, wet and exhausted he could not get himself out."

Boehm's wife said Barrette saved her husband's life by seeing him, calling for help and trying to calm him while they waited for rescuers to arrive.

"Quick and effective action certainly helped save this man's life," said Lt. Ryan Aho of the Michigan DNR Law Enforcement Division. "This is an example of how things can go wrong quickly and turn into a life-threatening situation."

Today, a friend was able to retrieve belongings Boehm had abandoned on the ice, including his ice shack, cellphone and wallet.

Conservation officers remind ice anglers that there is no specific thickness of ice deemed to be safe. Always be prepared and cautious whenever venturing out onto the ice, especially early or late in the winter or during spells of warm weather.

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

- **GovDelivery:** Recent changes made to Microsoft security caused some of our email subscribers to be unintentionally and automatically unsubscribed. GovDelivery made changes on our end, implemented Jan. 29 that switch from the automatic unsubscribe to a double opt-out that requires the user to take an action to unsubscribe. We are still determining what action we will take, if any, to get these subscribers reinstated.
- **Social Media:** The first video in a series aimed at connecting the DNR with new audiences to nature is reaching finalization. Content creators working across the department to produce "Fish Facts" and other content that has been formatted for the DNR Instagram channel in a successful limited series of reels. The popularity of the series has been refreshing, and we're collecting analytics and engagements to continue to improve and expand on it.
- **R3 and Archery Coordinators** are working together with the Parks and Recreation Division and the concession operator to plan the development of an archery range on Belle Isle State Park.
- **SAH donation increase:** Customer donations to the Sportsmen Against Hunger (SAH) program are up nearly 87 percent compared to License Year 2022. That's an increase of more than \$96,000.
- **MiCO (licensing system) Updates:** Working on upcoming features including fish tagging, inland sports fishing guide, and commercial hunting guide license. We are also rewriting the mobile application for Law Enforcement Division and customer facing due to outdated software. Completed more than 35k auto renew of licenses for the new license year.
- **Telecom and Technology Updates:** DNR began testing the use of Starlink at remote DNR locations. This will potentially open the door for better connectivity at lower costs. New episodes of the Warden are being aired.

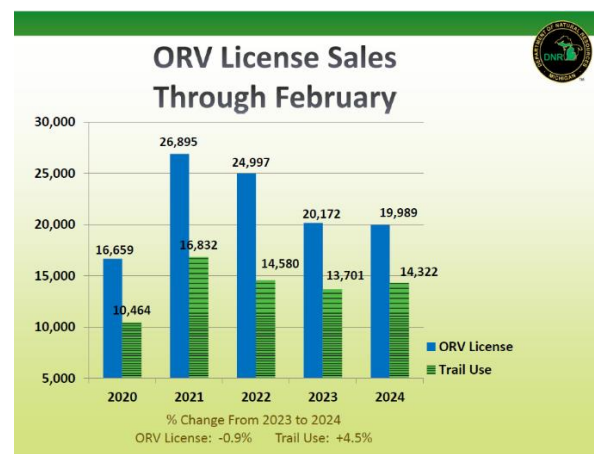
- **CRS System Updates:** DNR is in the final stages of enabling a reservation system for the Ralph A. MacMullen (RAM) Conference Center. This will allow the RAM center to handle reservations for large groups using the existing CRS system and payment processor.
- **Nature Awaits:** The Nature Awaits team planning and preparation continues on many fronts, the biggest of which is hiring. After a round of 23 interviews, six applicants were selected to fill the Interpretive positions that will serve as lead staff for “conducting” the program. They started March 3 and have all now completed training and preparing to welcome 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms in our state parks beginning April 1.
- **Interpretation:** Sarah Anderson was hired to replace promoted Tahquamenon Falls State Park Interpreter Theresa Neal. She started at the park on March 19.
- **Salmon in the Classroom** held a weekend “Salmon Summit” January 26-28 with more than 20 teachers participating in a series of hands-on activities, aquatic education related content and an opportunity for teachers to network and share their programs.
- **Nature Center Summit:** Participation maxed out at 100 for this in person seminar held Friday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup> at the RAM Center. Nature Centers, zoos, conservation districts and other nonformal education institutions filled the sessions to learn about resource management issues and priorities.

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

### Impact of Low Snow this Winter

- See charts on snow and ORV permit sales through Feb (MISORVA numbers will not be known until July).
- The snowmobile trail stickers sales are down -26.4% and I would expect that to grow somewhat through March. There has been support for the program from snowmobilers still buying their stickers even though they can’t ride. How many is unknown yet. There were a lot of snowmobilers that knew they couldn’t ride but came up anyway to support the local businesses. Some brought ORVs and rode and others didn’t.
- ORV numbers are holding steady.
- It was estimated that business numbers were down anywhere from 65% to 95% according to a dozen or so different businesses that I heard about directly.
- There has not been any further information about FEMA/natural disaster funding for this area as of the date of this report.

Project Name: Haywire Grade – 11 Bridges	Project Name: Trail 8 – 3 Bridges
Description: Engineer and replace 11 bridges	Description: Engineer and replace 3 bridges
Trail Use: ORV/Snowmobile	Trail Use: Snowmobile
Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: 2025
Q3 Update: Waiting on approval from USFS on the engineering plans.	Q3 Update: Project meetings being scheduled for spring start up on the Beartrap bridge. Waiting on funding for the Melstrand crossing. Funding will depend on leftover snow funds.



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

- Staff continued to work on reports for the St. Marys River creel and fish community surveys.
- Staff helped prepare a presentation on the St. Marys River for the Great Lakes Fishery Commissions Upper Lakes meeting / Lake Huron Committee meeting.
- Staff has been in contact with Michigan Trout Unlimited regarding a dam removal on Spring Creek (Spring Creek Trout Pond Dam), Luce County. Funding was recently awarded to Fisheries Division through a federal grant opportunity to remove division dams that no longer serve a useful function. TU staff are leading the removal with Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit (NLMMU) staff assisting where needed. The dam at Spring Creek is over 50 years old and failed inspection several years ago with EGLE requiring the dam be rebuilt or removed. The cost to rebuild the dam is prohibitive and removal is the best option to restore the upper Spring Creek to natural conditions.
- Lake Superior Management Unit and Marquette Research staff met with Trout Unlimited to discuss assistance for tissue sample collection for the splake/brook trout introgression study being conducted through US Fish and Wildlife Service with assistance from the Michigan State University genetics lab. A prioritized list of streams was identified for sampling by Lake Superior Management Unit staff. Trout Unlimited will be focused on those streams not already included on MDNR work plans and their efforts will be conducted in July and August.
- Staff attended the Trout and Esocid Committee meetings held in Sault Ste. Marie the week of February 26<sup>th</sup>. A tour of the Center for Freshwater Research at Lake Superior State University was provided, and the Trout Committee meeting was held in the facility. The Esocid Committee Meeting was held at the MDNR Sault Ste. Marie Customer Service Center.
- The MDNR Tribal Coordination Unit from Charlevoix conducted an adult walleye abundance estimate on Lake Milakokia, Mackinac County. The crews battled the shifting weather patterns to perform netting and electrofishing efforts to capture walleye for the mark and recapture assessment. The crew marked just over 1,700 walleye, but only captured 69 walleye during the recapture effort. Not enough fish were caught during the recapture effort to calculate a good estimate, so the crew is planning a second electrofishing run when the water begins to warm again.
- District 2 Law Enforcement staff met with Fisheries Division staff from the Northern Lake Michigan, Eastern Lake Superior, Northern Lake Huron, and Tribal Coordination units. Officers from Area 1 and 3, and the Great Lakes Unit, participated in the meeting. This meeting has been held each of the last 3 years to increase communication with the officers on what they are observing and encountering in the field regarding fisheries. Topics include fishing reports, regulation reviews and feedback, and issues Fisheries Division needs to be aware of.
- Fisheries Division Aquatic Species and Regulatory Affairs (ASRA) is responsible for administering the Fishing Tournament Information System (FTIS). In 2018, the Natural Resources Commission changed their order regarding fishing tournaments in Michigan. Any fishing tournament as of January 1, 2019 which targets or includes largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, or muskellunge need to be registered and results reported in FTIS. Each year, ASRA staff provides a summary of registered tournaments and results. Statewide the total number of tournaments registered and completed reporting for each species are as follows: 2,552 bass, 87 walleye, and 10 muskellunge. Tournaments held in Upper Peninsula counties totaled, 27 for bass, 13 for walleye, and no tournaments for muskellunge. The 2023 FTIS summary for each species is posted on the Michigan DNR webpage and can be found under the Tournaments link.
- A creel clerk of 10 years, Becky Papke, who over the years has creeled the ports of Marquette, Au Train, Munising, and Grand Marais is retiring on March 24, 2024. Becky appreciated all the participation from the anglers over the years and will miss the relationships she built with those anglers. Becky will be moving on to other commitments and mostly those with family. Thank you, Becky, for your years of service. Good Luck in retirement!

- The Newberry Fisheries field crew is wrapping up maintenance work on survey and sampling equipment. With pending weather conditions, the crew is adjusting accordingly and awaiting triggers in conditions to begin spring surveys. Spring surveys on the work plan include walleye adult abundance estimates on Au Train Lake (Alger County) and Culhane and Bodi lakes (Luce County) and Brevoort Lake (Mackinac County) muskellunge population assessment.
- The Lake Superior Citizens Fisheries Advisory Committee will meet in Houghton on the campus of Michigan Tech University on April 11. The Lake Superior Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee is a citizen-based committee charged to review and provide input and advice relative to fishery goals, objectives, and management plans for Lake Superior. Members assist Fisheries Division in charting the future course of fisheries management by providing voice to and for the diversity of citizens' interests in the Lake Superior basin. Meeting Minutes can be found here [Lake Superior Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee \(michigan.gov\)](#).

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

### **Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island**

- Lime Island Harbor Upgrade Project: Docks are completed and usable but addressing dock adjustability issue with consultant, contractor and DTMB.
- Brimley Utility Improvement (waterline/storm water replacement): Contract is in place and construction starts September 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Lime Island Cultural Resource Plan Project: Consultant performed field work in fall of 2023 and waiting for development of a plan.
- Brimley Underground Primary Electric/Transformer Replacement (Design/Build): The contract was awarded, and construction will start early spring with completion by May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- DeTour Harbor Surge Protection System Improvements: Project bid date has closed and waiting to see if project will be awarded. Anticipated project start date is September 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- A Brimley seasonal ranger was brought back in January to perform HWA surveys.
- DeTour PI Ranger Position: Have approval to schedule interviews.
- Vacant DeTour Seasonal Ranger Position: Still not posted.
- All locations are starting to get short-term worker (STW) interest forms and will be looking to start the STW recruitment process soon.
- Brimley: Campground is scheduled to open for the season by May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- DeTour State Harbor: The Harbor is scheduled to open for the season on May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Lime Island Recreation Area: Scheduled to open for the season on June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Algonquin Ski Trail: Ski trail attendance was low for the ski season due to lack of snow.
- DeTour has two vacant Seasonal Ranger positions (one that was not filled last year and recently one due to a Ranger leaving state service).
- Two Brimley Rangers are done assisting Tahquamenon Falls Rangers with HWA inspections/mapping for the season.
- All DeTour and Brimley staff attended the PRD Inservice in Grand Rapids March 4-6.
- Brimley and DeTour units have been planning upcoming projects, securing funding and ordering materials & equipment.
- With warmer than normal temperatures and lack of snowfall, rangers are planning on doing early hazardous tree inspections/removals.
- Some boat anglers fished Brimley Bay the last few days of pike and walleye season. The first time most have seen open water before the close of this fishing season.
- Lime Island Tern team met on February 27 to discuss plans for the upcoming Tern nesting season on the Lime Island Coal Dock.

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

- Indian Lake and Palms Book improvement project is at 90% review in phase 400.
- The ten-year General Management Plan was presented to PRD section chiefs and waiting on final approval.
- Indian Lake received Cultural Resource Funding to refurbish the well pit at Seul Choix Lighthouse.



- Indian Lake has posted a new janitor position opening with a closing date of April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- In the process of interviewing for non-career ranger positions for the summer.
- Attended a meeting with US Forest Service personnel for a proposed project involving the Indian River Restoration Project. This project would include re-routing of the Indian River to its natural channel which then would empty into the north end of Indian Lake near Palm Books State Park.
- Staff have been doing maintenance to skid piers at various location within the unit.
- Meeting with a FRD surveyor to possibly obtain a 4-acre parcel adjacent to PRD land for the Palms Book site improvement project. Indian Lake has obtained support from FRD Unit Manger and District Manager for this land transaction proposal.

### **Muskallonge Lake State Park**

- (APRA) Construction of the West Campground toilet/shower building is in progress. Interior block walls and rough in plumbing and electric are complete. Project is on schedule with an anticipated substantial completion date of June 21. This section of the campground will remain closed until construction is complete.
- (APRA) The new boardwalk to Lake Superior is approaching 90% review with the hopes of the project going out for bid in July and construction starting in September.
- (APRA) Design and engineering (50%) is in progress for the wastewater/water distribution upgrades and paving.
- Ranger staff have all been recalled from seasonal furlough.
- Short-term worker recruiting, interviewing, and hiring for the upcoming season is in progress.
- Ranger Cottrell participated in stewardship projects over the past two months identifying and mapping hemlock trees at Tahquamenon Falls State Park for invasive species controls and monitoring.

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

- Campsite improvements have been ongoing in campground.
- Father Marquette lift station replacement project was awarded. Contractor has been moving in some materials end of January.
- Father Marquette Memorial site was awarded a \$3.6 million grant from the Mellon Foundation. With this grant, the project has the proper funding to move forward into the construction phase. The project plans are not at the 100% phase. Once they are, it would go out for bid with a possible construction start date in the fall and through the use season in 2025.
- A forest rec ranger has been added with 1360 hours and interviews have taken place; waiting for HR to give the go ahead to hire.
- Getting ready to hire seasonal STW staff for the 2024 camping season.
- Chicago has executed its race agreement. Bayview has signed their permits, and we are waiting payment for their race event to the island.
- We are seeing a lot of walkers and hikers. We had the park ski trail groomed; however, now with the warmup, things have deteriorated where it is back to hiking.
- Park seasonal ranger staff came back early to attend the PRD inservice training held in March. This added about 2 weeks to those folks for this year only.
- Lots of great small projects planned to help improve the parks and trails this season.

### **Tahquamenon Falls State Park**

- Lower Falls Hemlock Campground Shower Building Replacement: Construction continues to be on schedule. We are hopeful the building will open to the public sometime in July.
- Lower Falls Portage Campground Electrical Improvements: Glen Construction LLC has been selected as the contractor for the project. Construction is slated to begin after Labor Day and be complete by next year's Memorial weekend. 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: The project team has pared down the scope of work for this project to attract more/lower bids for construction. The bid process will start again in the coming weeks. This project will

update/relocate the existing, aged structure to a more convenient location and provide staff at this stand-alone unit the tools to maintain the Rivermouth Unit into the future.

- Upper Falls Brink Overlook: The project team is nearing the end of the design process and intends to advertise for construction bids in the spring with construction starting in the fall and ending in the early summer of 2025. The existing stairway and deck structures will be eliminated, and a new, universally accessible ramped boardwalk will be built in its place in the same general location. A new viewing platform will be constructed to better utilize the viewing opportunities at the Upper Falls Brink. The Brink area will be closed to the public for a large part of this project.
- Lower Falls Water Distribution Project: The project team continues to work through the design process for this project. The project scope includes replacing both aging wells that service the entire Lower Falls Unit as well as much of the underground water lines. A construction timeline has not been set yet for this project.
- Sarah Anderson has been hired as the new Park Interpreter. She brings with her many years of Interpretation experience in the national park system as well as Minnesota State Parks.
- 6 candidates were interviewed last week for the vacant janitor position at Tahquamenon Falls State Park. We expect the selected candidate to begin work in late April.
- Non-career summer staff hiring is almost complete, with the addition of employee summer housing greatly improving our recruiting efforts.
- Despite the lack of snow cover, the park once again held lantern-lit snowshoe/ski events each Saturday in February. Attendance was down a bit, but there were still several folks who came out each week to participate.
- The park will be opening our Rivermouth Unit camping inventory early this year on March 29<sup>th</sup> due to favorable spring conditions. The camping will remain rustic until May 15<sup>th</sup> and will include the camper cabin.

### **Newberry Field Office**

- Working on vault toilets throughout the winter.
- Recently conducted a pre-bid meeting at Milakokia boat launch for possible redevelopment and upgrades.
- Recently met with Straits staff, District Planner and District Supervisor at Brevort Boating Access Site to discuss a plan for upgrades to better define parking area.
- Will be moving to Pretty Lake when weather breaks for improving roadway and installation of vault toilet.
- In the process of filling the vacant Lead Ranger position that came open due to retirement.
- In the process of recruiting and interviewing candidates for summer staff positions.

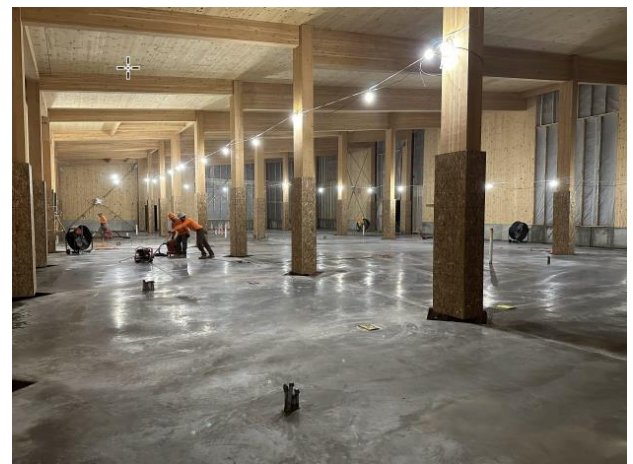
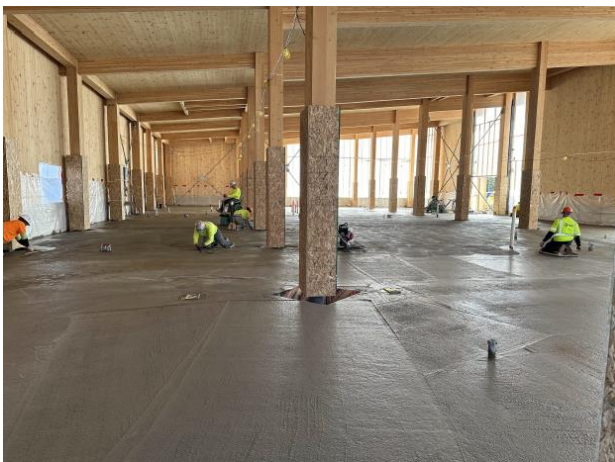
### **Finance & Operations: Becky Randazzo, Eastern UP**

#### **Upcoming Season Dates**

- 4/10 Last day to register non-incident Otter – see p. 12 in Fur Digest, for all deadlines
- 4/15 Dog Training closes (also no hunting with dogs)
- 4/15 Coyote Season Closes
- 4/20 Spring Turkey opener (for the early hunts – see digest for various unit dates)
- 4/26 Beaver trapping closes (Units B&C) – Unit A closes on 4/30/23
- 4/27 Trout Opener (Inland Waters)
- 4/27 Walleye and Pike season open for L.P. inland, except: note 3, p.13
- 5/1 May apply for Bear and Elk hunts; Fur Harvester licenses go on sale
- 5/1 Can obtain kill tags for Otter, Bobcat, Marten, and Fisher (Residents Only). Also deadline for returning Incidental trapping seals to DNR
- 5/3 Last day to register incidental Otter taken in April – see p. 12 for details
- 5/15 Walleye and Pike open in U.P. inland / U.P. Great Lakes / St. Mary's River
- 5/25 Bass Opener (Catch and Keep Season)
- 5/25 Frog, Toad, Salamander seasons open (until 11/15) – see p. 22
- 5/31 Hand Net & Dip Net seasons close

## Newberry Customer Service Construction Schedule Update

- Temporary column protection, grouting of base plates, roof strapping, and erection of the wall mock-up CLT panels has been completed.
- Electrician finished installation of underground electrical inside of the building last week.
- Roofing contractor started installing the metal roof assembly last week. They have all materials installed except the metal panels and flashings systems. They are planning to start installing the metal panels the week of 3/25.
- Concrete contractor completed installation of the under-slab insulation, vapor barrier and wire mesh and they placed the interior slab on grade in one pour last week. They will be pouring the column isolation slabs and mechanical housekeeping pads next.
- Glazing contractor was onsite last week to field measure openings for the exterior glass curtain wall.
- Interior wall layout and framing is scheduled to start on 3/25/24.
- Overhead Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing (MEP) installation is scheduled to start on 3/27/24.



## **Wildlife Division: Dave Lemmien, UP Wildlife Supervisor**

### **Staffing Update**

- Each Unit in the Upper Peninsula (UP) will be hiring a non-career wildlife assistant (NCWA) to help with various tasks throughout the summer months, typically beginning in May. The hiring process is under way and the job posting was open from 1-22-24 to 2-6-24. NCWA's typically help with nuisance bear issues, sick and injured wildlife, habitat projects and crop damage complaints among other things.
- Will be holding interviews to fill the vacant Baraga Wildlife Technician Position in April. Hoping to be onboarding a new employee by late spring/early summer.

### **2024 Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative (DHPI)**

- The Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative (DHPI) is a competitive grant program offered by Wildlife Division and focuses on cooperative projects enhancing deer habitat on private lands in the UP. Now in its' 16<sup>th</sup> year, over \$1,150,000 of deer hunting license dollars have been invested into UP deer habitat through the DHPI program, with an additional \$800,000 of matching funds contributed through partners in over 132 projects, enhancing thousands of acres of deer habitat in nearly all UP counties.
- The request for grant proposals opened on Monday, January 29, 2024, with a total of \$100,000 available to award as grants through the DHPI program. Grants awarded in 2024 will range from a minimum of \$2,000 to a maximum of \$15,000 and require a 25% project match from partners in the form of financial or in-kind contributions. Completed applications must be sent or emailed to: Bill Scullon, Field Operations Manager, Norway DNR Field Office, 520 West US Hwy 2, Norway MI 49870 by close of business on Monday, March 18, 2024. Final notification of project selection process will occur by April 5, 2024.
- Complete grant materials are available online at DNR Wildlife Grants page or type [www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants) then follow the *Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative* link.

### **2024 Wildlife Habitat Grant Program**

- The Wildlife Habitat Grant Program began in October 2013 and is funded from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. The DNR administers the program with the main objective to enhance and improve the quality and quantity of wildlife species habitat in support of the Wildlife Division's strategic plan. Funding is available for local, state, federal and tribal governments, profit and nonprofit groups, and individuals through an open competitive process. Minimum grant amounts will be set at \$15,000, with the maximum being the amount of funds available for that grant cycle. The 2024 overall available grant amount is approximately \$1 million.
- Applications opened January 31 and must be submitted through the MiGrants system no later than **March 18** to be considered for funding. Successful grant applications will be announced in early summer 2024. The detailed program handbook and more information are available at [Michigan.gov/DNR-Grants](http://Michigan.gov/DNR-Grants).

### **Winter Conditions and the Impact on Deer**

- Winter conditions so far have been quite mild across the majority of the UP. As of March 11<sup>th</sup>, we are well past the half-way point of monitoring snow conditions and the average region-wide snow depth is 0 inches, less than the long-term UP average of 18 inches. The number of days with snow on the ground greater than 12" deep is only one day, while the long-term average from past years was 63 days.
- Staff will opportunistically monitor deer wintering complex activity this winter as snow conditions allow.

### **UP Winter Wolf Survey**

- UP staff are involved in conducting the winter wolf track survey to determine an UP minimum count. The survey is a stratified random sample design with 13 of 21 units being surveyed this year. The survey requires staff to survey predefined areas using vehicles, snowmobiles, etc., to count and distinguish packs. The survey will conclude at the end of winter when tracking conditions become unfavorable.

### **Other Updates**

- Some wildlife staff have been participating in wildland fire academy trainings in preparation for the 2024 fire season.

- Wildlife Division recently held a wildlife program coordination meeting with staff to discuss statewide direction including various game species regulations, invasive species management, climate adaptation, research needs and more.
- Staff are currently planning spring projects, outreach programs, developing project contracts and planning spring wildlife surveys.

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

### **Timber Sales**

- Newberry FMU
  - Offered 4 timber sales during February – March: 3 sales sold with minimal bidding activity; 1 no-bid lowland sale that is restricted to winter harvesting.
  - Sale activity for winter operations have pretty much concluded due to lack of conditions. Early frost law road restrictions going on in early February have also contributed.
  - Observed markets continue to not be strong for many loggers in the area, particularly in the pulp markets.
  - Staff attended the UP-Wood Producers Meeting in Escanaba
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
  - Offered 3 timber sales – all had a lot of interest, and all sold well over minimum bid; sales had class A road access.
  - Bid opening scheduled for the end of March with 1 pine sale with class A access expected to sell.
  - Currently 9 active timber sales with the Unit.
  - Staff are continuing to prepare 2024 YOE timber sales.
- Shingleton FMU
  - 2 timber sales were offered; both went no bid. These are upland Red Pine sales and both sales will be reduced in price by 25% and re-offered.
  - Winter conditions prohibited most winter sale operations and early/extended seasonal road restrictions have caused producers to move between sales more than normal.
  - Hardwood and softwood pulp markets remain problematic.

### **Forest Inventory**

- EUP forest inventory efforts continue to be ongoing for our 2026 planning cycle (*Year of Entry*). Areas traditionally inventoried via snowmobile with frozen conditions continue to be a challenge.
- Many compartment blocks and treatment proposals from field forestry staff are being submitted for internal review as spring season approaches.

### **Cultivation**

- Upcoming calendar year plans are in the process of being finalized for internal trenching and roller-chopping schedules and contractor scarification sites. Miss Dig locate request maps are also being completed.
- Spring planting crews are planned to be in the EUP in early May.
- Plans being developed for an 83-acre spring prescribed burn in northern Luce County for site preparation to mitigate logging slash and competition for reforestation efforts.

### **Fire**

- Newberry FMU
  - Winter equipment maintenance continues.
  - Equipment is being readied for the upcoming fire season.
  - Fire staffing begins April 14th.
  - Rx burning teams being put together to conduct burns throughout the state.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
  - 1 Fire in Western Mackinac County – 8 acres in size.
  - Incident Qualifications System (*IQS*) updates completed.

- Unit fire plans updates completed.
- All Sault Unit prescribed burn plans submitted for review/approval with 1 exception: Cranberry Bog Rx-Plan (*in progress*).
- New F-550 fire truck put in-service in Sault Ste. Marie.
- Shingleton FMU
  - Staff have put fire suppression equipment into service and will begin to staff.

### **Road and Bridge**

- EUP seasonal road restrictions came into effect on the first week of February.
- Final planning stages with Huron Pines and Chippewa County Road Commission for Beavertail Creek bridge replacement. Construction is planned to begin in June or July of 2024.

### **Facilities**

- Seney field office electrical upgrades have been awarded and working through the permitting process.
- Construction work progressing on the new Newberry CSC Mass Timber Construction building.
- New flooring at the Shingleton field office is working through the procurement process.

### **Good Neighbor Authority**

- 2 GNA timber sales currently active with work completed on 1 of the sales.
- Timber sale preparation on the Hiawatha National Forest continues, with field work and sale contact writing efforts progressing.
- Work plan development efforts for the East Zone of the Hiawatha are ongoing, out to fiscal year 2029.

### **Land Use**

- Shingleton Unit is reviewing a large-scale LTA for fiber installation.
- Sault Unit is reviewing fiber optic easement and surface use lease for a utility hut to be placed on state land.
- Sault Unit also reviewing a private road easement on Drummond Island that involves several landowners.

### **Forest Health - Statewide Forest Health Pathologist**

- Hemlock woolly adelgid surveys have been conducted in high-risk areas of the UP, especially along the Lake Michigan shoreline, along with surveys by Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area staff. No positive detections have occurred in the UP, however detections continue to occur further north in the LP along the Lake Michigan shoreline into Benzie County as of this update.
- 1 confirmed case of larch beetle caused mortality within tamarack stands on state land near Munuscong in the Sault Ste. Marie FMU.

### **Commercial Forest - District Service Forester**

- Attended the Commercial Forest Partners Meeting in Escanaba.
- Met with Northern Michigan University Professor and Students to discuss Forestry.
- Field Compliance audits on Commercial Forest land.
- Working with private landowners to update their forest management plans.
- Reviewing forest management plans.

### **Research**

- Variance approvals for cedar regeneration research across the UP by Michigan Tech in conjunction with MDNR is concluding. Harvesting sites and restoration sites have been selected and research staff will begin field prep work this summer.
- Variance approvals for Assisted Migration research are ongoing.

## Outreach

- Forestry staff from the Sault joined Michigan Timberman's Association, Foresters from Timber Products, staff from Titan Timber logging company and staff from Yoder Trucking on a field day with the Career and Technical Education Class from the Sault area. 12-15 students from Rudyard, Brimley and Sault schools visited an active logging job to learn about the industry and the management that was occurring on state land. This was part of the forestry portion of the class and gave them a chance to see the real-world application of what they are doing in the classroom.

## Training

- Fireline qualified staff attending RT-130 – Fireline Refresher Trainings within local units.
- Fireline qualified staff attended UP Spring Fire Tactics meeting in Gwinn.
- Several staff attended First Aid/CPR recertification training (*2 year certification*).
- Forestry staff attended an internal invasive species refresher training.
- 2 Fire Officers attended CA-490 Advanced Fire Weather Calculations in Sault, Ontario.

## Vacancies / Hirings

- 2 Newbery Forester vacancies have been filled; Feb 19<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> start dates.
- 1 Newberry Forest Technician hired; March 17<sup>th</sup> start date.
- 1 Shingleton GNA Forester hired and started March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- 2 Sault Foresters hired and either started March 4<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> start date.
- 1 Naubinway Forest Technician hired and started March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- UP Forest Health Forester hired based in Marquette.
- Statewide Forest Health Entomologist hired based in Roscommon (Forest Health programmatic planning and coordination).
- Interviews set for Forest Fire Officer for Sault Ste. Marie office.
- Vacancy posting is open for a Forest Fire Officer position in Seney.
- Rob Shields (Sault Unit Fire Supervisor) set to be Working Out of Class as Fire Specialist for Marquette ICC from March 17 to June 8
- Efforts are underway to hire 4 Non-Career Forest Fire Officers in the EUP.

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

We had a taste of spring with anglers out in boats instead of ice fishing to close out the pike / walleye season, then back to working snowmobilers here in the last week. Whatever the weather, folks are still out recreating and adapting to conditions and our officers just adapt along with them and find plenty to keep them busy. Below are some of the activity's officers have been involved in since our last CAC.

### DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 2-17-2024

- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol in Garden Township when he encountered an individual operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle. This individual had received four prior citations for violations involving operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle as well as damaging state land trees. CO Butzin ran the plate attached to the vehicle and it came back as belonging to a different vehicle. The plate was also expired since 2019 and did not have insurance. A traffic stop was conducted, and the vehicle was towed from the location. A report has been submitted to the 94th District Court pending charges for operating a motor vehicle without securities and operating a motor vehicle with an improper license plate, along with possession of a schedule three controlled substance.
- **CO Michael Evink** assisted Manistique Public Safety with a structure fire that was contained to an unattached garage. CO Evink provided traffic control due to the high volume of traffic in the area around the fire.
- **COs Michael Evink and Robert Freeborn** responded to a single vehicle accident where the driver lost control and drove into the ditch due to slippery road conditions. The COs handled the accident scene due to being the only law enforcement in the county available at that time.
- **CO Andrea Dani** assisted the MSP with a call of a barricaded gunman. The troopers were able to contact the suspect via a phone call and he exited the residence without incident.

#### DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 3-4-2024

- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint from FRD Supervisor Jay Osterberg of damage to state land in Masonville Township. CO Butzin responded and discovered several cut trees, vehicle parts, ruts in the soil from vehicle tires, burned tires and many empty beer cans. Evidence was located at the location which led to the identity of at least one suspect. Video of the suspect was also obtained from a local business of the individual purchasing the alcohol which was discovered at the scene. An interview was conducted on the suspect, he admitted to having a fake ID as the suspect was under 21 years old. A citation was issued to the suspect for minor in possession of alcohol, operating a wheeled motor vehicle in an area not designated for such use, and litter. A warning was given for possessing a fake state identification card.
- Snow conditions are very poor with little snowmobile activity. Several ORVs are hitting the trails during the warmups.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Steve Butzin** observed a suspicious vehicle in front of them. As the COs were confirming the insurance status, the vehicle turned into a private driveway. Due to the traffic the COs were unable to turn right behind the vehicle. By the time the COs entered the driveway, the driver was already in the residence. Before exiting the patrol truck, the COs verified the driver through their SOS photo and confirmed the driver had a local outstanding warrant. The COs then made contact at the residence and were invited inside. The COs located the driver at the kitchen table who denied being the operator. The COs explained they observed her in the driver's seat as she turned into the driveway. The driver continued to deny involvement and refused to give ID. After several minutes of discussion, the driver produced an ID. The driver was advised of the warrant and was able to post bond. The driver was issued a citation for the insurance violation.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink** assisted local agencies with persons who had fallen through the ice. A total of 4 individuals were in the water at one time. Local agencies were able to save all but one of the fishermen. It was found a snowmobile carrying 2 passengers was operating at night on poor ice conditions when it drove into an area that was open water 2 days earlier. Once the individuals went through, 2 bystanders tried to assist when they became victims. MSP is handling the incident.
- **COs Michael Olesen and Scott Pankow** conducted a snowmobile patrol in Strongs and observed a snowmobile without a trail permit or registration. The COs completed an enforcement stop and cited the individual for operating without a trail permit and for failing to display a snowmobile registration.
- **COs Michael Olesen and Scott Pankow** conducted a snowmobile patrol in the Trout Lake area with the focus being on careless operation. The COs observed two individuals completely disregard a stop sign at a high rate of speed. Both individuals were cited for careless operation of a snowmobile.
- **COs Michael Olesen and Scott Pankow** were dispatched to an injured Bald Eagle in the Moran Area in Mackinac County. The Eagle was located and transported to Kinross Animal Hospital. Unfortunately, the Eagle was put down to the severity of the injuries.
- **CO Scott Pankow and Sgt. Calvin Smith** worked Munuscong Bay and checked multiple fishermen.
- **CO Scott Pankow and Sgt. Calvin Smith** responded to a sick deer complaint near the Pickford area. After looking at the deer it appeared as if the deer ran into a tree and was unable to get up. The deer was subsequently put down and the head was submitted to wildlife division to be tested.
- **COs Scott Pankow and Jason Ruth** conducted a snowmobile patrol near Paradise with a recent snowfall, activity was moderate. The COs issued several citations for failing to attach registrations and for failing to obtain a snowmobile trail permit. Verbal warnings were given for other minor violations.
- **CO Jason Ruth and Sgt. Calvin Smith** checked several ice fishermen on Brevort Lake who were enjoying some success. The COs came across a very elderly couple who were just getting ready to leave the access site. The couple stated that they had some good success the last two days for perch and showed the COs their catch. After counting all the perch, the couple was over their daily possession limit by two. The COs educated the couple on the laws of possessing fish from the previous day and issued a verbal warning for the violation.

#### DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 3-18-2024

- **CO Andrea Dani** received a report of illegal possession of a dead wild turkey in the bed of a pickup truck. CO Dani contacted the owner of the vehicle who admitted he picked up the roadkill turkey earlier that week and intended to use it for coyote bait during the upcoming weekend. CO Dani seized the turkey and verified it was not shot and informed the subject that roadkill turkeys cannot be possessed. She also informed the subject that roadkill salvage permits are available online for specified species.
- **CO Brandon Maki** and his ride along were checking inland lakes for ice fishing activity when they were requested to assist **CO Jeremy Sergey** after a vehicle had passed him doing 100+ mph. CO Maki responded and arrived on scene where CO Sergey was able to stop the vehicle. CO Maki assisted on the traffic stop and the driver of the vehicle was issued a citation for his excessive speed.
- **CO Michael Evink** responded to a burning complaint in Schoolcraft County. Once on scene CO Evink contacted the individuals by the fire. He informed them that no burning permits had been issued for the day and there was a high fire danger. Additionally,



many of the items being burned were not permissible items to be burned in an open pit. CO Evink issued a ticket for burning without a permit and gave a warning for illegal disposal of solid waste.

- **COs Andera Dani and Cole VanOosten** participated in a Manistique High School fundraiser for the senior all-night event. There was a jocks vs cops basketball game where graduating seniors played local law enforcement.
- **CO Jason Ruth and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were patrolling in Chippewa County when they observed a large plume of black smoke. Upon further investigation the COs located an old farmstead that had several old outbuildings still on the property. One of the old buildings was fully engulfed in flames. The COs notified Chippewa County Central Dispatch of the fire and requested Bruce Township Volunteer Fire Department to respond. Contact was made with an individual who stated he had started the fire to clean up the farmstead. The man thought it was ok to burn the buildings as burning permits were being issued for the day. The COs educated the individual on that only brush, grass clippings and yard debris could be burned with a permit and that a building with shingles is never allowed. A citation was issued for open burning of solid waste.
- **CO Scott Pankow and Sgt. Calvin Smith** assisted the Chippewa County Sheriff's Department with a missing individual in the Paradise area. Due to the remote area, the COs used their tracked UTV to assist in the search. The man was found a couple days later by an off-duty police officer who came across an individual who fit the description of the missing man. The man was very surprised that anyone was looking for him as he had decided to do a couple of nights of winter camping.
- **CO Scott Pankow** was fueling up his patrol truck when a call from Chippewa County Central Dispatch aired over the radio of a suicidal male with a knife near his location. CO Pankow assisted the Sault Ste. Marie Police Department, and the individual voluntarily went to the hospital for an evaluation.
- **CO Scott Pankow** assisted the Michigan State Police (MSP) with an individual who crashed into the drive-through at a local restaurant in Sault Ste. Marie. After further investigation the individual was placed under arrest for operating under the influence of drugs (OUID) and lodged in the Chippewa County jail by MSP.
- **CO Scott Pankow and Lt. Kevin Postma** attended a career day at the Rudyard High School. CO Pankow talked with students about the path to becoming a conservation officer.