



Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: February 2025 (information current as of 2/12/25)

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

Meetings/Events/Press Releases

Upcoming 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.

February 13	Natural Resources Commission, Lansing, 9:30am (nrc@michigan.gov)
February 18	Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee, 10am (989-590-9073)
February 19	Eastern UP Citizens Advisory Council, Virtual, 6pm (906-226-1331)
February 19	Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee, 2pm (517-284-6135)
February 21	Michigan Wildlife Council, 10am (517-242-8693)
March 6	Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup, 1:30pm (517-331-6219)
March 13	Natural Resources Commission, Grand Rapids, 8:30am Coffee with Commissioners, 9am Meeting (nrc@michigan.gov)
March 18	Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, Baraga, 6pm (906-226-1331)
March 21	Equine Trails Subcommittee, 1pm (517-331-6219)
March 21	Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council, 10am (517-582-3204)
March 25	Trails Advisory Council, 1pm (517-331-6219)
March 31	Board of Foresters, 3pm (989-370-9557)
April 10	Natural Resources Commission, 9am (nrc@michigan.gov)
April 15	Eastern UP Citizens Advisory Council, Newberry, 6pm (906-225-1331)

UP 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](#)

February 1	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park-Lantern-lit Guided Snowshoe Hike
February 7-9	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park-Midwest Telefest 2025
February 8	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park-Lantern-lit Guided Snowshoe Hike
February 14	UP 200 Sled Dog Race-Marquette
February 15	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park-Lantern-lit Guided Snowshoe Hike
February 15	Tahquamenon Falls State Park-Lantern-lit Snowshoe Trail
February 22	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park-Winter Snowburst Carnival
February 22	Tahquamenon Falls State Park-Guided Snowshoe Trail
October 3-4	Fayette Historic State Park-Fayette Fall Fest

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- DNR continues to clear the way for UP winter fishing access (2/7/25)
- Showcasing the DNR: Collaborative UP moose study launched (2/7/25)
- Run for trees this spring (2/5/25)

- DNR installs new benches at Portage Marsh (2/4/25)
- DNR conservation officers patrol Chippewa County trails during I-500 weekend (2/3/25)
- DNR News: Birds, bears, lightkeepers, trails and more (2/3/25)
- DNR announces \$100,000 available for UP Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership grants (2/3/25)
- February hunting and trapping opportunities (2/3/25)
- Last day to apply for a spring turkey license (1/31/25)
- Showcasing the DNR: Winterlude (1/30/25)
- Conference May 6-8: Expanding markets for wood residuals (1/30/25)
- Weigh in on walleye regulation for Dickinson, Iron counties (1/30/25)
- DNR News: Summer hiring, backyard birds, coping with coyotes (1/29/25)
- February meetings: State parks, waterways, wildlife and more (1/24/25)
- Waterfowl hunters: Protect yourself and domestic animals from bird flu (1/24/25)
- Save the date! Arctic grayling reintroduction event May 12 (1/24/25)
- Hiring summer park workers - apply and/or share! (1/22/25)
- 2024 Great Lakes fisheries surveys wrap-up (1/22/25)
- 2024 elk hunting season: Outcomes and highlights (1/17/25)
- Apply by March 14 for DNR community forestry grants (1/16/25)
- Find a perfect place for winter fishing fun (1/16/25)

Grant Contacts

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| ▪ Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant | Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Recreation Passport Grant | Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Michigan Spark Grants (Public Recreation) | Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov |
| ▪ ORV Trail Improvement Fund | Richard Kennedy, 517-284-7275, kennedyr@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Fisheries Habitat Grant Program | Chip Kosloski, 517-281-1705, kosloskic3@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Michigan Invasive Species Grant | Erin Campbell, 269-300-9698, campbelle6@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Wildlife Habitat Grant | Chip Kosloski, 517-281-1705, kosloskic3@michigan.gov |
| ▪ UP Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant | Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, scullonh@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Forestry Grants | www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/forestry |
| ▪ Land & Water Conservation Fund | Christie Bayus, 517-242-8737, bayusc@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Waterways Program Grants | Curt Wemple, 231-444-8029, wemplec1@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Law Enforcement & Safety Grants | https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/le |

Western UPCAC Update

The **Western UP Citizens Advisory Council** met on January 15 in a virtual format. Items discussed included the annual election of officers (Tom Solka-Chair, George Lindquist-Vice Chair), December meeting follow-up, a brief moose survey update, a western UP snowmobile trail update, law enforcement's overview of the snowmobile season and noise control, and the status of the winter boating access site partnership for this year. Notable committee activity included a review of two proposed resolutions by the wildlife committee (#1-recommend a 1-buck rule for the entire UP and #2 recommend changes to the deer harvest reporting app). Due to a lack of quorum, both resolutions were tabled until the next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for March 15 at the Baraga Lakeside Inn conference room in Baraga beginning at 6pm.

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

January NRC Meeting Recap – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met on the downtown campus of Lansing Community College on January 9, 2025.

The Director approved a [land transaction in Ionia County](#). He announced that he plans to sign [a land transaction in Crawford County](#) provided proper local approvals are secured.

Committee of the Whole, Director's Report

Law Enforcement Division Chief Jason Haines gave a life saving award to Conservation Officer Wesley Butler. On July 24 of last year, CO Butler was working on Belle Isle when he heard a loud impact sound. He was told someone had just crashed their personal watercraft into a nearby bridge. Once he called for assistance, CO Butler quickly responded and located the victim, who was face down and unconscious in the water. He removed his duty belt and entered the water, making his way to the man. CO Butler reached the victim and swam with him back to shore where he was able to place the man into a recovery position so that he began coughing up water and regaining consciousness. EMS was able to take the individual to the hospital via ambulance to receive further treatment. Thanks to CO Butler's quick action, the man survived.

Mark Monroe of the Forest Resources Division reviewed [the department's annual forest roads inventory process](#). The inventory is mandated by Act 288 of 2016, which requires the department to inventory roads annually to adjust our state forest road maps each year. The 2024 review resulted in the removal of 69 miles of road segments from state forest maps for conventional and ORV use. Data clean up resulted in 21.2 miles of roads removed, and another 15.3 miles were added because they were not previously included in the inventory. With these changes, the department manages:

- Upper Peninsula: 5,706.4 miles open to ORV use out of 5,800.6 total miles
- Northern Lower Peninsula: 6,094.9 miles open to ORV use out of 7,286.7 total miles
- Southern Lower Peninsula: 9.1 miles open to ORV use out of 359.1 total miles

Chad Fedewa from the Wildlife Division presented [results from the most recent elk hunting seasons](#). The state has a population goal of 500 to 900 animals in the current elk range in Michigan. Our 2024 estimate of the population showed 1,146 animals. The 2024 hunting harvest was as follows:

- Hunt Period 1: State hunters legally harvested 59 elk, including 24 bulls and 35 cows/calves. Hunters during this period had a 59% success.
- Hunt Period 2: State hunters legally harvested: 121 elk, including 46 bulls and 75 cows/calves. Hunters in this period had a 75% success rate.
- Tribal Harvest: 15 elk, although these numbers are still being tabulated.

Nicole Hunt of the Parks and Recreation Division [presented information regarding three proposed land use orders for 2025](#):

- Land Use Order 2 would officially designate the Houghton Douglas Falls property as the Houghton Douglass Veterans Memorial Scenic Sight. The order would also:
 - Include a definition of "Scenic Site" on state lands.
 - Clarify that unmanned aircraft regulations at state-operated boating access sites or harbors and state parks apply specifically to the launching of unmanned aircraft from state land.
 - Clarify the definition of "Recreation Area" so that it is inclusive of all aspects of a recreation area and not inadvertently only inclusive of certain facility aspects.
 - Remove the definition of Personal Assistive Mobility Device as it applies to state lands as that definition is no longer in alignment with federal and state law.
- Land Use Order 3 would affect snowmobile use within state parks and recreation areas, addressing lands that are incompatible with snowmobiles for a variety of reasons. This order would not affect the use of snowmobiles on snowmobile trails or at a Boating Access Site to access ice.
- Land Use Order 4 would prohibit bicycles on a portion of the Cedar River North Trail and the Thunder Valley Equestrian Trail to address trail incompatibility issues.

How to Participate in the NRC Meetings

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

Division Updates

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

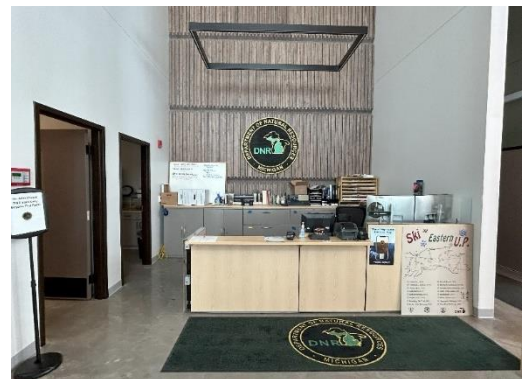
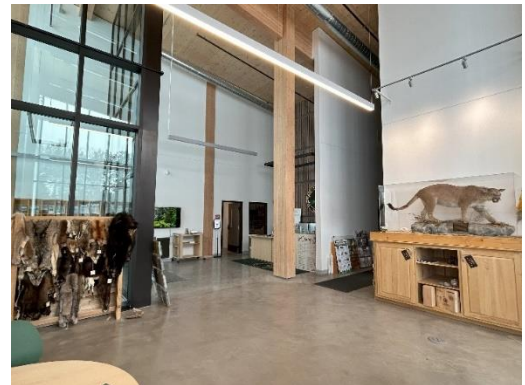
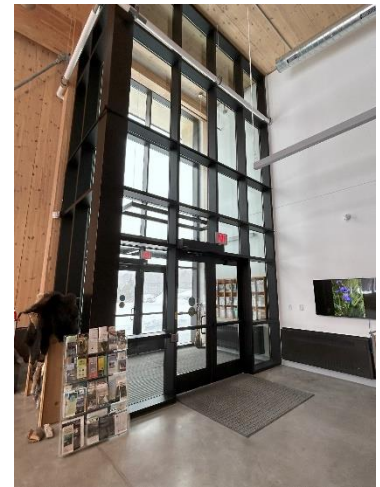
Project Name: Trail 8 – 3 Bridges	Project Name: Haywire Grade – 11 Bridges
Description: Engineer and replace 3 bridges	Description: Engineer and replace 11 bridges
Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use: ORV/Snowmobile
Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: TBD
2/25 Update: The engineering and EGLE permitting is done. Waiting on a n updated cost from the contractor.	2/25 Update: Waiting on approval and NEPA process from the USFS.
Project Name: Grass Creek Bridge Snow Trail #8	Project Name: Betsy River Bridge Snow Trail #452
Description: Bridge failing on the sunrise grade. Design and replacement needed.	Description: Large bridge failing north of Paradise. Design and replacement needed.
Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use: Snowmobile
Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: TBD
2/25 Update: Waiting on funding.	2/25 Update: Waiting on funding.
Project Name: Sunrise Grade Snow Trail #8 LFRHW Crossing	Project Name: Trail #49 – 12 Mile/Gaines Hwy
Description: Failing bridge on Snow Trail #8. Design, engineering and construction needed to replace	Description: 4.2 miles of roadbed and a failed bridge. Design, engineering and construction needed to build up roadbed and replace the crossing.
Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use: Snowmobile
Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: TBD
2/25 Update: Waiting on funding.	2/25 Update: Working to find a way to get EGLE approval.

Finance & Operations Division: Becky Randazzo, Eastern UP

Season Dates to Remember

- 2/15-16 Winter free fishing weekend
- 2/23-25 Last day for ice shanties on Lake St. Clair (see p. 70 in guide)
- 3/1 New year: hunt / fish / ORV licenses go on sale (most licenses expire 3/31)
- 3/1 Can apply for 2025 Pure Michigan Hunt
- 3/1 Hand netting opens (smelt, suckers, bowfin, carp, gar, shad, goldfish) (see p. 23)
- 3/1 Fox hunting closes; also Fox, Coyote, Muskrat, Mink trapping all close

- 3/1 Bobcat hunting closes (Units A, B, C), and Badger trapping closes in Zone 3
- 3/1 Tree stands and ladders must be removed from all public lands
- 3/1 Last day for ice shanties in southern Lower Peninsula counties (see p. 70)
- 3/1 Pike, Walleye, Sauger close on the boundary waters (see p. 25 for exceptions)
- 3/3 Drawing results posted for Spring Turkey hunts
- 3/11 Last day to register Bobcats taken by hunting (Units A, B, C) (see p. 57 for all dates)
- 3/15 Last day for ice shanties in northern Lower Peninsula & boundary waters (see p. 70)
- 3/15 Walleye, Pike, Muskie seasons close in most waters (exceptions p.12-13 and p. 25)
- 3/15 Sturgeon seasons close (see p.15 for legal waters and St. Clair possession dates)
- 3/10 Leftover Turkey on sale for unsuccessful applicants; OTC begins 3/17/25
- 3/20 May use dip nets (smelt, suckers, bowfin, carp, gar, shad, goldfish) (see p.23 for hand nets)
- 3/17 Leftover Turkey and Hunt 234 on sale for ALL hunters (at 10:00 am)
- 3/31 Hunt, Fish, and ORV Licenses expire (Fur Harvester is valid until April 30)
- 3/31 Last day for ice shanties in the Upper Peninsula (see p. 70)
- 3/31 Squirrel, Early Crow, Raccoon and Rabbit/Hare seasons close
- 3/31 Last day of Otter trapping (for incidental Otter trapped in April, see p. 50 fur digest)
- 4/10 Last day to register non-incidental Otter (see p. 57 in Fur Digest, for all deadlines)
- 4/15 Dog training closes (also no hunting with dogs)
- 4/15 Coyote season closes
- 4/19 Spring Turkey opener (for the early hunts, see digest for various unit dates)
- 4/25 Beaver trapping closes for Units B&C, Unit A closes on 4/30/25
- 4/27 Trout opener (inland waters)
- 4/27 Walleye and Pike season open for lower peninsula inland (except: note 3, p.13)



Newberry Customer Service Center

Staff are still unpacking from the move into the new Customer Service Center, attached are some photos of the facility. Look for upcoming details regarding an open house!

Fisheries Division-Eastern UP – Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Biologist

1. Lake Superior Management Unit and Northern Lake Huron Management Unit field staff have been working on equipment repairs, boat and trailer upgrades, and aging fish structures collected from surveys in 2024. Remainder of winter work includes limnological profiles on area lakes to monitor winter conditions and specifically dissolved oxygen concentrations. Low dissolved oxygen concentrations in inland trout lakes results in poor performance and survival of stocked trout. Having this data is helpful when making decisions on stocking these lakes.
2. Interviews for the Fisheries Technician, Fisheries Biologist, and Fisheries Assistant in the Lake Superior Management Unit are complete.
3. Lake Superior Management Unit, Tribal Coordination, and Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit staff collaborated on the 2025 field work plan. Work plans are finalized and are already being implemented.
4. Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit staff are working through and addressing comments received from the recent Forest Resources Division draft State Forest Plan in-person and virtual public meetings.
5. Lake Superior Management Unit has been preparing fisheries order change proposals for several waters in the eastern portion of the unit. Strawberry Lake, Marquette County and Moon Lake, Luce County are being proposed to change from a Type-D to a Type-A trout regulation. This change is a liberalization of the minimum size limit (15 inches to 10 inches) and an increase in the daily possession limit (1 fish per day to 5 fish per day). These proposals will be reviewed during a public vetting process before heading to the Natural Resources Commission for consideration.
6. Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit staff have been prepping fisheries order change proposals for several lakes to propose a protected walleye slot limit on nine unit waters including Big Manistique Lake and Lake Milakokia. Lake associations and sports clubs have been contacted and a public meeting has been scheduled for **February 26th in Curtis at the Curtis Community Building from 6-7:30 pm.**
7. The Black Lake sturgeon spearing season was held on February 1. A total of 776 anglers registered this year. The season lasted 17 minutes with seven fish being harvested. Field staff from Northern Lake Michigan and Lake Superior Management units all returned home safely.
8. The Lake Superior Basin Team met at the Great Lakes Fishery Commission building in Marquette. The meeting was a hybrid meeting with staff attending virtual and in-person. Agenda topics included lake trout identification process for creel clerks, important section updates, and management unit level regulation proposals including burbot hoop-netting regulation, trout lake type changes, and lake trout offshore possession limit.
9. Staff attended the Trout Committee meeting in Traverse City in January and the Walleye Committee meeting in Saint Ignace in February.
10. Michigan DNR staff officially moved into the new mass-timber Newberry Customer Service Center on January 24. Office spaces are full, and staff is still in the process of unpacking.

Wildlife Division: Dave Lemmien, UP Wildlife Supervisor

- Staffing Update: Each unit in the 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 will begin in earnest once job announcements are posted. NCWA's typically help with nuisance bear issues, sick and injured wildlife, habitat projects and crop damage complaints among other things. Wildlife Biologist Heather Shaw, Shingleton, has accepted the Forest Certification Specialist Position with the Forest Resources Division (FRD).

Heather will be responsible for the DNR forest certification program, state forest biodiversity conservation, and serve as the FRD archeology and tribal liaisons. Interviews to fill the vacancy have been completed and recommendation memo has been submitted to Lansing for approval.

- **2025 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' seventeenth year, over \$1,250,000.00 of deer hunting license dollars have been invested into UP deer habitat through the DHPI program, with an additional \$900,000 of matching funds contributed through partners in over 148 projects, enhancing thousands of acres of deer habitat in nearly all UP counties. The request for grant proposals opened on Monday, February 3, 2025, with a total of \$100,000 available to award as grants through the DHPI program. Grants awarded in 2025 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 14, 2025. Final notification of project selection process will occur by April 4, 2025. Complete grant materials are available online at DNR Wildlife Grants page or type www.michigan.gov/dnrgrants then follow the Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative link.
- **Winter Conditions and the Impact on Deer:** Winter conditions so far have been tracking near historic (past 20 years) averages. As of February 3rd, we have surpassed the half-way point of monitoring snow conditions and the average region-wide snow depth is 14 inches, slightly less than the long-term UP average of 17 inches. The accumulated number of days with snow on the ground greater than 12" deep is now 25 days, while the long-term average for this time of year is 24 days. Staff will opportunistically monitor deer wintering complex activity this winter as snow conditions allow.
- **UP Aerial Moose Survey:** UP staff recently completed an aerial winter moose survey to estimate population size. WLD conducts this survey every two years. Despite unfavorable weather grounding DNR aircraft for several days at a time, we were able to complete the survey on Saturday, February 1st. WLD Research Staff will be analyzing the data and will have results available later this summer. When results become available, WLD will report to the EUPCAC at a future meeting.
- **Deer Camp Survey:** Deer hunters from across the UP contribute data from the 16-day firearm season to provide DNR staff and hunters with feedback on the status of the deer herd and hunting satisfaction soon after the season ends. Data from camps across the UP was collected and is being analyzed with results expected to be released soon. WLD will present results at the April EUPCAC meeting. Thanks to all the participants for their interest in deer and deer hunting.
- **Other Updates:** Wildlife Division will once again be holding our 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. Newberry staff wrapped up the Youth in the Outdoors Survey, where they asked local youth to return surveys answering 4 simple questions related to their outdoor interests. Youth that returned surveys were entered into weekly prize drawings throughout the two-month long survey window; 60 surveys were returned with all 45 youth being drawn as prize winners and got to pick out an outdoor related prize at the Newberry DNR Office. Wildlife staff partnered with the Newberry News and were able to feature pictures of youth in the local paper enjoying their favorite outdoor activities. Survey responses are used to create local workshops and events that youth are interested in.

- 2024 Bear Season Summary: Please see the tables below for preliminary harvest numbers for the 2024 bear season. In general, the western UP had good hunter success rates and resulting harvest levels that are relatively consistent with what they have been for several years. The eastern UP had very good success rates that reflect the increasing harvest and trends in abundance we've seen in recent years. The NLP rebounded after the dip we saw in harvest and success last year (likely due to abundant natural foods last season), and harvest levels were very similar to previous years

PRELIMINARY

2024 BEAR HUNT - REGISTRATION RESULTS Page 2

TRIBAL	Bears Registered
Baldwin	3
Baraga	0
Drummond	1
Gladwin	0
Gwinn	12
Newberry	45
Red Oak	34
Total	95

PRELIMINARY

2024 BEAR HUNT - REGISTRATION RESULTS Page 1
State Licensed Hunter Harvest

BMU	DESIRED HARVEST	BEARS		% of QUOTA	
		REGISTERED	QUOTA	REGISTERED	
Bergland	200	253	920	28	
Baraga	300	353	1540	23	
Amasa	165	177	500	35	
Carney	116	159	550	29	
Gwinn	150	212	885	24	
Newberry	260	328	1005	33	
Drummond Island	5	5	6	83	
Zone 1	1196	1487	5406	28	
Red Oak	317	345	685	50	
Baldwin	185	151	395	38	
Gladwin	26	43	100	43	
Zone 2	528	539	1180	46	
Total*	1724	2026	6586	31	

SEX DISTRIBUTION BY UNIT OF HARVEST (State Licensed Hunter Harvest)

UNIT	UNKNOWN	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	% FEMALES
BERGLAND	0	146	107	253	42
BARAGA	0	204	149	353	42
AMASA	0	100	77	177	44
CARNEY	0	100	59	159	37
GWINN	0	121	91	212	43
NEWBERRY	0	183	145	328	44
DRUMMOND	0	4	1	5	20
ZONE 1*	0	858	629	1487	42
RED OAK	0	183	162	345	47
BALDWIN	0	69	82	151	54
GLADWIN	0	18	25	43	58
ZONE 2*	0	270	269	539	50
TOTAL*	0	1128	898	2026	44

Forest Resources Division (FRD): Scott Lakosky, Eastern UP

Timber Sales

- Newberry FMU
 - Newberry offered 4 sales for bid since the last report. 2 sales went no bid. 1-3 bidders on the other 2 sales.
 - Currently 3 active sales on Newberry forest management unit (FMU) and 1 active sales on the Hiawatha National Forest tied to the (Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) program. These loggers are generally cutting sales with access issues where winter weather is necessary. Markets continue to be fickle, particularly pulpwood. Several local loggers went south for storm damage clean-up using trucks and harvesters. Local logging activity has been light.
 - Forestry staff have been busy preparing 2025 timber. 1,332 acres have been contracted to be prepared by various forestry consultant firms, staff are administering that work as well.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
 - 9 sales were offered for bids since the last report. 6 sales sold and 3 went no bid. 2 bid openings are scheduled in February with 4 sales.
 - Currently 6 active sales in the unit with markets seem to be stabilizing locally with most products moving off the landings. The pulp market is still a bit touch and go but things have been moving.
 - Staff are working on 2025 fiscal year timber sales; several proposals have been submitted for review.
- Shingleton FMU
 - 6 sales offered 1 went no bid. Currently good demand for red pine.
 - Sale activity moderate for this time of year, with notable effects from producers sending crews south on storm damage clean-up activities.

Forest Inventory

- Fieldwork for the 2027 year of entry (YOE) is well underway across all FMUs collecting field data and writing treatments.

- Continued formal and informal trainings are on-going related to the new inventory application (MiFI).

State Forest Management Plan

- Public review of the 10-year statewide forest management plan is now closed, and revisions based on public feedback are ongoing.

Cultivation

- Staff working through various plan of work development for the upcoming field season including trenching sites, planting sites, herbicide spraying sites for site prep and release work.

Fire

- Newberry FMU
 - No fires reported since the last report.
 - Staff have completed seasonal preventative maintenance on equipment.
 - Staff finalized fire reports from the fall season.
 - 7 new fire qualifications secured across 4 staff from the incident qualification review committee.
 - FEPP inspections at Whitefish Township VFD and Newberry VFD.
 - Unit placing the annual fire supply & fire prevention material order.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
 - Refresher trainings being scheduled with local fire departments: February 5 in Garfield Township and March 4 in Dafter Township (this will include fire shelter training).
 - Equipment maintenance ongoing
 - Two of the three burn plans for the Soo Unit are submitted for approval. The third plan is in progress with expected completion date early February.
 - 4 new fire qualifications secured across 2 staff from the incident qualification review committee including: division supervisor and wildfire investigator, incident commander type 5 and faller 3.
- Shingleton FMU
 - Various staff attending and instructing training classes.
 - Staff involved in supporting Marquette ICC shop work with rotating shifts.

Facilities

- Staff have moved into the new Newberry Customer Service Center/Field Office facility on January 24.

Land Use

- Newberry FMU reviewing utility easement applications and use permit applications for various state forest land uses.
- Shingleton Unit reviewing 10 fiber applications and 3 land use permits.

Research

- MiCedar research projects entering the timber sale proposal stage. Sault FMU hopeful to bid sales out in the spring with target of next winter for harvest.

Forest Health

- DNR forest resources forest health program staff met with UP resource conservation and development Council staff and other partners to coordinate surveys for hemlock woolly adelgid and to plan for a coordinated response to any detections in the UP.
- Staff and partners have been surveying hemlock for hemlock woolly adelgid across land ownerships in the UP focusing on areas near the Lake Michigan shoreline considered to be at highest risk for infestation. The closest area of known infestation in Antrim County is about 60 miles from the shoreline of the EUP. Early detection of any infestations allows us to slow establishment and spread, protecting our valuable hemlock resource.

Commercial Forest

- District Service Forester
 - Reviewing and approving forest management plans for owners.
 - Reviewing CF withdrawal applications.
 - Assisting in conservation easement monitoring.
 - Assistance to forestry consultants and landowners.

Training

- Statewide fire academy was held and included many EUP staff either as student or instructor roles; staff were involved with many classes including:
 - Urban Interface Wildland Fire Fighting
 - Firefighter Type 1
 - Heavy Equipment Boss
 - 800MHZ Radio Training
 - Engine Boss and Crew Boss
 - Wildfire Arson Case Development
- Staff from each FMU have also attended other trainings included:
 - 1 staff to S-339 division supervisor class
 - 1 Shingleton staff to CDL school
 - 2 staff to supervisor academy series
 - Newberry in-house staff training classes
 - Forestry staff from each FMU attended road inventory and SCA editing training

Vacancies/New Hires

- Non-career fire officer positions for the EUP have been posted.
- Shingleton working on hiring a forest technician position in Manistique.

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

Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island

- Brimley Utility Improvement (waterline/storm water replacement): Construction started September 3, 2024. Work has ceased due to snow, with remaining water connections, final grading, seeding/planting to resume in the spring. Substantial completion is May 19 for the campground and June 15 for day use.
- Lime Island Cultural Resource Plan Project: Final report presentation was virtually held on November 8, 2024.
- Brimley Underground Primary Electric/Transformer Replacement (Design/Build): Unit has received O&M and project has been closed out.
- DeTour Harbor Surge Protection System Improvements: Construction started on September 9, 2024. New breakers and ground fault system has been installed, new cement pads for connection boxes and hangers for electrical cable. Work continues this winter. Substantial completion is May 15.
- Lime Island Solar System Replacement/Upgrade: Project team has received, reviewed and recommended a bid for award. Waiting for ad board approval on February 12.
- Vacant DeTour Seasonal Ranger Position: Recently reached out to HR about reposting.
- Seasonal State Park Workers: Will be starting soon on recruiting for the summer.
- Brimley: Has been closed to pedestrian and vehicular traffic since September 3, 2024 to accommodate construction
- DeTour State Harbor: DeTour Harbor has been closed since September 9, 2024 to accommodate electrical upgrades.
- Lime Island Recreation Area: Closed for the season.
- Munuscong/DeTour State Forest Campground: Snowed in for the Season.
- Brimley has one ranger attending the 8-week Parks & Recreation Division law academy at the RAM Center which started on February 3.

- Brimley lead ranger has been busy grooming Algonquin Ski Trail, plowing parking lots and maintaining winter off-site locations.
- Brimley PI ranger attended a snowmobile safety class and has been assisting EUP trails ranger with trail inspections.
- DeTour PI ranger has been assisting the EUP trail ranger with trail inspections.
- DeTour lead ranger has been refurbishing Caribou Lake boating access site skid pier, monitoring the harbor ice suppression system and submitting ideas/projects for district funding/green challenge.

Indian Lake State Park & Palms Book State Park

- Indian Lake State Park shoreline restoration project has been suspended until spring. The construction phase is complete with plantings and site restoration to be continued this spring.
- Indian Lake State Park toilet building and lagoon replacement projects are in final design phase with anticipated construction start date set for August 11.
- Indian Lake South Unit campsites, mini cabins, and beach shelter will be closed during construction which will last into the spring of 2026.
- All seasonal employees are on seasonal layoff until March.
- Have received several inquiries for job openings this summer.
- Rangers have completed their mid-winter inspections of the snowmobile trails.
- Rangers have also investigated areas of trails where snowmobile accidents occurred in Alger and Schoolcraft Counties.
- Railing brackets and railing for the lift station pumps at Indian Lake State Park have been repaired.

Muskallonge Lake State Park

- Lake Superior walkway project has made good progress. Footings are, significant framing and decking as well. Contractor is taking a short winter break and will be back to finish up in the spring.
- Campground paving project was awarded with work set to begin mid-June and substantial completion October 1. This project will require campground closure.
- Seasonal ranger was able to work many more hours this season helping Tahquamenon staff with Hemlock Woolly Adelgid surveys.
- Muskallonge hosted the Tahquamenon Country Sled Dog Race on January 11 and 12. Participants and spectators were excited to get back at it after last year's event was cancelled due to lack of snow. The event had a good turnout with 50 mushers in 4 different categories.

Newberry Field Office

- Building vault toilet buildings for 2025 projects.
- 1 new vacancy on the Newberry field office construction crew.
- Daryl Browning is the new full-time Ranger E (trails ranger) at the field office.

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

- Father Marquette/Heart of Great Turtle Island learning commons project received an awardable bid for construction. Project is set to begin in the spring.
- Solar and EV charger project pre-bid meeting was held with potential contractors. Bids are due in February with construction to begin in the fall.
- Vacant seasonal ranger position was recently posted and currently screening applicants.
- Mackinac Island Yacht Race permits have been sent out to both race directors and should be finalized soon.

Tahquamenon Falls State Park

- Lower Falls Portage Campground Electrical Improvements: Almost complete, pending some final punch list items and campsite restoration, which will take place in May. The campground is expected to open in mid-June.

- Upper Falls Brink Overlook: Continues to be under construction with an expected completion date of July 31. The brink viewing platform is closed during construction, but the Upper Falls Unit will remain OPEN, including the 3 main viewing areas from above and the gorge steps.
- Lower Falls Boardwalk Repairs: Crews are rebuilding 130 feet of boardwalk that suffers from extreme freeze/thaw cycles, impacting ADA access. This project is expected to be completed prior to Memorial Day weekend.
- Lower Falls Water Distribution Project: 2 new wells were installed last week, with the underground boring portion of the project expected to start soon. The project is still slated for completion in mid-May.
- The park is currently in the process of backfilling a seasonal ranger position that was vacated recently due to transfer.
- The first lantern lit snowshoe event of 2025 was a big success with many folks enjoying the snowshoeing, bonfire and refreshments that were provided on a quiet snowy night. Park staff is looking forward to hosting three more of these events on February 8, 15, and 22.
- The winter camping experience at the Rivermouth Unit has been a success so far with most weekends seeing 10-12 camps, plus the camper cabin has been booked solid.
- Park staff have spent a lot of time clearing snow so far this winter with 155 inches being recorded so far. Our seasonal average is around 180 inches so it looks to be an above average snowfall year for Tahquamenon Falls.

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

The 26 weeklong Conservation Officer Academy 13 which began on January 5th is going well. The first few weeks were all about routine, discipline and learning how to respond under pressure – a skill set these recruits will use throughout their careers.

During their time at the academy, recruits surrender their cellphones and any personal electronic devices to staff.


It's a long and rigorous process to reach the front steps of the CO training academy for the first check-in night. Recruits who made it to this point applied for the job almost 10 months ago and have since passed intense background checks that included their families, friends and communities.

To read more on the Conservation Officer Training Academy blog, click here: [**CO Training Academy 13 Blog**](#)

The division has also scheduled a Cadet CO Academy for July 6th-11th taking place at the Ralph A. MacMullen Center in Roscommon for successful applicants between the ages of 18-21.

All applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered:

- 18-21 years of age.
- Must be a senior in high school or enrolled in college, trade school, or military with a GPA of 2.7 or higher (most recent transcript and proof of current enrollment are required).



Michigan Department of Natural Resources
CONSERVATION OFFICER CADET ACADEMY

The Michigan DNR Conservation Officer Cadet Academy, July 6-11, 2025 is a free career exploration opportunity for individuals who are interested in a career as a CO.

Cadets will receive training and real-life experience while lodging in cabins at the DNR's Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center, located on Higgins Lake in Roscommon. COs will lead cadets through morning physical training, then follow a daily agenda similar to the CO Training Academy, covering a number of subjects, including:

- Conservation law
- Hunting regulations and enforcement
- Marine safety
- Water safety
- Off-road vehicle operation
- Search and rescue
- Survival tactics
- First aid

Eligibility

All applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered:

- 18-21 years of age.
- Must be a senior in high school or enrolled in college, trade school, or military with a GPA of 2.7 or higher (most recent transcript and proof of current enrollment are required).
- Interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement or natural resources.
- Have no felony or misdemeanor convictions within the past three years.
- Must be willing to lodge overnight at the RAM Center and participate in all activities, which will be directly supervised by conservation officers.
- Successfully complete and submit all of the required documents and forms.

Learn more or apply



This project is supported by Michigan's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funding Program # FRESB11, awarded by the U.S. Department of Treasury, and administered by the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (the Commission). Points of view or opinions contained within this document do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Treasury or the Commission.



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All information, including the application process, can be found online at:

<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/laws/hiring/cadet-academy>

Below are the Bi-weekly reports since our last CAC.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 11-24-2024

- **Cpl Mike Hammill** and **CO Andrea Dani** encountered a hunter and his friend in a brush blind. The subjects were hunting over a bait that exceeded the legal limit, and the hunter did not have a deer license. The hunter was cited for hunting without a license and baiting more than two gallons and warned for destroying trees and vegetation on public land to create the blind.
- **Sgt Mark Zitnik** and **CO Andrea Dani** followed up on an early and over-limit of bait discovered prior to September 15th. The hunter confessed to placing truckloads of apples there throughout the summer. A citation was issued.
- **Sgt Mark Zitnik** and **CO Andrea Dani** observed a pickup truck driving very slow near a clear cut at dusk with no headlights on. A traffic stop was conducted, and the officers located two uncased rifles, one of which was loaded and belonged to the driver. The passenger was cited into the Schoolcraft County District Court and a report was submitted to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Tribal Court for the driver.
- **CO Andrea Dani** followed an ORV trail over a berm on Hiawatha National Forest property. She located a permanent blind with no identification and documented the area. As she was walking out of the woods, the blind owner drove a side by side around her marked patrol truck and over the berm. CO Dani stopped the ORV and a citation was issued.
- **CO Andrea Dani** observed a four-wheeler operating on a federal forest road in Alger County. The four-wheeler was not licensed, and the operator was cited.
- While on patrol on the opening day of deer season, **CO Robert Freeborn** and **Sgt Mark Zitnik** checked two deer hunters who were hunting in illegal blinds. After checking both hunters, it was determined that neither of them was wearing hunter orange and did not have their deer tags in their possession. Citations were issued for the violations.
- Also, on opening day of firearm deer season **CO Robert Freeborn** and **Sgt Mark Zitnik** responded to a complaint of a subject living on state land for a long period of time. After locating the subject at their campsite in a remote section of Schoolcraft County, it was determined that the subject had several misdemeanor warrants along with an outstanding felony warrant from the neighboring county. The subject was placed under arrest and relayed to the neighboring county where a deputy transported the subject to the local jail.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** observed a hunter on an ORV operating without a helmet after the evening hunt. After stopping the hunter, it was determined that the hunter did not have his kill tags in his possession. A citation was issued for no helmet.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** and **Cpl Todd Sumbera** checked a hunter who had an extremely large bait pile. A citation was issued for the bait.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** and **Cpl Todd Sumbera** arrested a subject on a felony warrant from a case CO Steve Butzin had this spring. The subject's charge was Arson 4th degree resulting from a grass fire that was intentionally set.
- **CO Brandon Maki** contacted two separate hunters that had an excessive amount of bait placed before rifle season opened. CO Maki contacted the hunters on opening day of rifle season and discovered the hunters were not wearing hunter orange. CO Maki issued both subjects a citation for the excessive bait and no orange, while giving several ORV warnings before clearing the scenes.
- **CO Brandon Maki** contacted a hunter who had established a deer bait back in August and issued a citation for starting a bait before September 15.
- **CO Brandon Maki** initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle and upon contacting the occupants, discovered an uncased rifle sitting next to the passenger. CO Maki issued the passenger a citation for possessing an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle.
- **CO Brandon Maki** and **Sgt Mark Zitnik** contacted a vehicle with 3 occupants inside. Upon investigation, it was discovered the passenger in the rear seat of the vehicle had an uncased rifle. CO Maki issued a citation for possessing an uncased rifle in a motor vehicle while giving several warnings before clearing the scene.
- **CO Brandon Maki** had a complaint of an over bait at someone's deer camp. CO Maki was familiar with the suspect / camp. CO Maki eventually caught up with the suspect at his camp and confronted him about the excessive bait and

spotlights. CO Maki issued one citation for the over bait and one citation for a previous violation and informed the suspect he knows what the spotlights were for before clearing the scene.

- **CO Jason Ruth and Sgt Calvin Smith** assisted a successful hunter with recovering his deer which was over a half mile from the nearest road.
- **CO Jason Ruth and Sgt Calvin Smith** were working the 2nd day of firearm deer season when they observed a SXS operating during the quiet period. A traffic stop was initiated, contact was made with the driver and passenger. Upon further investigation a citation was given for an open intox and a warning on operating the SXS during the quiet period.
- **CO Jason Ruth and Sgt Calvin Smith** checked on hunter who had been using illegal ORV trails and cutting tress on National Forest Land. The individual confessed to not removing the blind and leaving it out year after year. The hunter was issued a citation for no name, no address on blind. He was advised his stand needed to be removed after hunting season.
- **CO Jason Ruth and Lt Skip Hagy** were patrolling the Gould City area, when they noticed a group of trucks congregated on the roadway. Contact was made and one of the drivers had a loaded firearm inside his truck. He was issued a citation.
- **CO Jason Ruth and Lt Skip Hagy** made contact with a hunter who had just left his blind on his side by side ORV. The hunter was given a warning for no seatbelt and issued a citation for no kill tags on person while hunting.
- **CO Scott Pankow and Sgt Calvin Smith** were on patrol on opening day of rifle season when they responded to an illegal ORV trail on Federal Land near Trout Lake. Upon arrival CO Pankow and Sgt Smith located a vehicle at the entrance of the trail with a small trailer on it. The COs walked the trail back to make contact with the hunter. The hunter was cited for bait greater than 2 gallons and no name on blind. The hunter was given a warning on the illegal ORV trail and no helmet on ORV.
- **CO Scott Pankow and Sgt Calvin Smith** followed up several illegal baited deer blinds that were observed having excessive bait. Several citations were issued for baiting for deer with more than two gallons.
- **CO Scott Pankow and Sgt Calvin Smith** were checking an illegal ORV trail near Fiber. COs walked the trail back to a pop-up blind with the hunter inside. The hunter was not wearing hunter orange and did not have their hunting license on them as well. The hunter was cited for no hunter orange and was given warnings on the illegal ORV trail and not having his hunting license on person.
- **CO Scott Pankow** was following up on an excessive deer baiting complaint when he observed an antlered deer hanging at a camp without being tagged. CO Pankow made contact with the individual who had shot the deer the day prior and had failed to tag it. A report will be submitted to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians seeking charges for failing to immediate tag a deer.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on patrol in Chippewa County when he came across ORV tracks leading down an old logging trail. CO Olesen made contact with the hunter who had failed to license his ORV or wear an approved helmet. The individual was cited for the violations.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was patrolling Drummond Island in Chippewa County when he observed an ORV operating without proper licenses. He was cited into Chippewa County Court for failing to license his ORV.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol when he encountered a hunter returning from a day of hunting in a vehicle. Upon contact, it was determined that the man was in possession of a loaded firearm. A report was compiled and submitted to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for prosecution.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** followed up on an illegal blind on state land that had been there for numerous years. CO VanOosten issued the man a citation three years ago for the same violation. The man had failed to remove the blind after receiving the citation. CO VanOosten contacted the man on opening day of firearm deer season and issued him citations again for the violations observed including occupying a permanent blind on state land and for hunting over more than 2 gallons of bait.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol for firearm deer season when he observed a large fire burning near a hunting camp. After driving by the location and smelling the pungent odor of burning construction material, CO VanOosten contacted two men drinking beer around the fire. Upon contact the individuals stated that they were burning lumber from a construction project. CO VanOosten identified a brand-new roof on the house and a trailer containing a large amount of roofing shingles. The man admitted to burning a large amount of shingles. CO VanOosten observed remnants of shingles in the fire. A citation was issued to the man for unlawful disposal of solid waste.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was enroute to a complaint of a dead deer in a field during the opener of firearm deer season when he encountered a van broken down on the road. CO VanOosten stopped to ensure everyone was ok and that the family had a ride coming. During the contact, the driver mentioned that the family was looking for some venison to eat. The man stated he was able to process his own deer and would take any deer that the CO could get to them. After clearing and following up on the dead deer in the field, it was determined that the animal had recently been hit by a vehicle and was still salvageable for meat. CO VanOosten was able to deliver the deer to the family later in the day.

- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol when he heard a shot near his location. Approximately an hour later in the same area, CO VanOosten observed an unregistered vehicle driving down the county road. A traffic stop was conducted, and it was determined that the individual driving was the man who had just shot the deer. The CO patrolled to the area and assisted the two men in recovering the animal, a 6-point. A warning was issued to the man for operating an unregistered vehicle.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** and **Sgt Calvin Smith** were patrolling near McMillan when a call came out of a vehicle that had left the roadway and hit multiple trees. The two occupants of the vehicle were also trapped inside. The COs were first on scene and checked the wellbeing of the driver and passenger, miraculously neither one had serious injuries. The COs assisted the fire department with extraction and used their issued equipment to help stabilize the vehicle.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 12-23-2024

- **CO Brandon Maki** issued seven citations to snowmobilers for failing to attach/obtain a trail permit and gave warnings for failing to display registration decals to multiple riders. CO Maki also observed one rider completely disregard a stop sign where the trail crossed a highly traveled road. CO Maki initiated a stop on the snowmobile and the rider admitted to disregarding the stop sign and crossing the road at approximately 40 MPH. CO Maki issued a citation for careless operation.
- **COs Scott Pankow** and **Jason Ruth** worked a snowmobile patrol from Pine Stump to Grand Marais. During the patrol multiple violations were encountered including no trail permits, no registration, and failed to transfer registration. CO Pankow and CO Ruth issued multiple citations along with many other verbal warnings.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol when he observed a snowmobile operating against the flow of traffic on the plowed section of M-123. CO VanOosten conducted a stop on the snowmobiler and found out the individual had failed to transfer the title after 15 days, had not purchased a snowmobile trail permit, and the snowmobile registration was expired. Citations were issued for those three violations. Verbal warnings were given for operating against the flow of traffic and operating on the State Hwy.
- **CO Scott Pankow** was able to catch up with a trespass suspect from the firearm deer season. A confession was obtained, and a report has been submitted to the Chippewa County Prosecutor's Office for review.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 1-6-2025

- **CO Steve Butzin** was conducting follow up from deer season when he encountered several licensing violations. It was discovered that an out-of-state resident had killed a 9-point buck and used the license of another, a state resident, to tag it. When interviewed, the subject informed CO Butzin that he had lost his license and thought he would have to pay full replacement for the cost of the base license to purchase a replacement deer license so instead he had an individual who doesn't typically hunt go and buy him a license as resident license fees are cheaper. CO Butzin explained to the hunter that he would not have needed to buy a replacement base license, only a replacement deer license for \$20, which is the same price for residents and nonresidents. CO Butzin also informed the hunter that not only was it illegal to loan and borrow another's deer license but that they had actually spent \$11 more than if he would have just bought a replacement deer license. This being because the other individual had to first purchase his base license before he could buy the deer license. Enforcement action was taken on these violations.
- **CO Andrea Dani** encountered a snowmobile on the paved portion of a state highway operating against the flow of traffic. The snowmobile also did not have a trail permit. A stop was conducted, and a citation was issued.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** responded to complaints of illegal snowmobile operation on the state highway near Tahquamenon Falls. Stationary patrol was conducted, and numerous violations were observed. Three citations were issued for operation on a state highway.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on snowmobile patrol when he observed a snowmobile stuck in the middle of Big Manistique Lake after dark. CO VanOosten walked out on the ice to ensure the man was ok as the man was unable to move the snowmobile. Upon contact, the man was distraught and stated he was only on 3.5 inches of ice with his snowmobile and large sled full of gear. CO VanOosten assisted the man in removing his items from the ice and advised the man against operating his snowmobile on such variable ice conditions.
- **CO Scott Pankow** responded to a complaint of a safety zone violation on Drummond Island. CO Pankow interviewed the suspect who was walking down the road when he saw a snowshoe hare and shot it. The suspect was well within the 150-yard safety zone of nearby residences and was also not wearing the required hunter's orange. A report has been compiled and submitted to the Chippewa County Prosecutor's Office for review.
- **CO Scott Pankow** received a complaint from an individual who was out for a walk when a truck stopped, and the driver exited the vehicle and shot a pistol into the woods and then left. The complainant was able to take pictures of the driver as well as the vehicles license plate. CO Pankow was able to track down the driver of the truck who at first told a story of putting a deer down that was injured. CO Pankow asked what gun he used and was told it was a .270 rifle. CO Pankow then pulled out the two empty .410 shotgun shells that were left at the scene. The individual then stated, "well, you know

what's going on. I saw a grouse and shot at it with my .410 pistol I keep under the seat of my truck in a holster." CO Pankow discovered that the individual did not possess a concealed pistol license (CPL) and that the pistol was illegally borrowed from someone else. A report will be submitted to the Chippewa County Prosecutor's Office requesting charges of recreational trespass, carrying concealed weapon, and no hunter's orange.

- **CO Mike Olesen** performed a snowmobile patrol in Chippewa County. During the patrol CO Olesen issued three citations for no snowmobile trail permits and issued several verbal warnings for failing to display registration stickers.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 1-20-2025

- **CO Brandon Maki** while checking an inland lake one evening CO Maki stopped at an access site and observed an ice shack. CO Maki watched one individual tend 3 tip ups a short distance away from the portable ice shack. CO Maki believed the individual was also fishing inside the ice shack, putting him one line over the legal limit of three lines. CO Maki approached the shack and contacted the lone fishermen who was jigging for walleye inside. CO Maki issued a citation before clearing the scene.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was checking ice fishermen on Munising Bay when he contacted two occupants inside a shack. CO Maki asked for their fishing licenses while they were both actively fishing. One individual found his immediately, while the other stated he must not have his on him. CO Maki contacted RAP and had a license check performed. The individual did not have a valid 2024 fishing license and was subsequently cited.
- **CO Andrea Dani** while on patrol along Trail 8 at a county road intersection in Alger County. CO Dani issued citations to snowmobilers for various violations including careless operation for running the stop sign as well as failure to display registration decals.
- **CO Jason Ruth** patrolled Luce County with the Luce County Sheriff's Department and issued citations for careless operation of a snowmobile to individuals that disregarded stop signs.
- **CO Jason Ruth** assisted a stranded motorist on US-2. The driver advised she had been there for hours trying to change her tire. She said several wreckers had cancelled. CO Ruth was able to remove the flat and install the spare. The young college student was very thankful and was able to continue on her way.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** and **Sgt Calvin Smith** conducted a snowmobile patrol from McMillan to Munising. The COs observed countless snowmobiles and issued 6 citations for careless operation, registration violations, and no trail stickers
- **COs Justin Vinson** and **Cole VanOosten** conducted a snowmobile patrol of Grand Marais. Numerous snowmobilers were contacted, and eight citations were issued for registration violations and no trail sticker.
- **CO Scott Pankow** and **Sgt Calvin Smith** conducted a snowmobile patrol near Strongs in Chippewa County. Several snowmobilers were contacted during the patrol with citations being issued for registration violations and careless operation.
- **CO Mike Olesen** conducted a snowmobile patrol in Chippewa County focusing on careless operation. CO Olesen issued six citations to snowmobilers who disregarded stop signs at trail crossings.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was patrolling an area where complaints of snowmobilers operating on the plowed surface of a State Highway had been received. CO Olesen observed a snowmobiler not only operating on the plowed surface of the highway, but he was also going against the flow of traffic. A citation was issued for operating on the State Highway and a verbal warning was issued for operating against the flow of traffic.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 2-3-2025

- **CO Brandon Maki** was checking fishermen when he observed two groups of fishermen actively fishing on AuTrain Lake. CO Maki was checking the first group when the second group began to quickly pack up. CO Maki noticed this and made his way towards them. CO Maki contacted the second group and discovered one individual did not have a valid fishing license. CO Maki issued her a citation for fishing without a license and cleared the scene.
- **COs Andrea Dani** and **Brandon Maki** were on a snowmobile patrol near a busy intersection where the trail crosses a roadway. COs observed 3 snowmobiles completely disregard the stop sign as they crossed the road at approximately 30 MPH. CO Maki initiated a stop on the sleds, contacted the riders and asked them why they failed to stop. They stated that their visors were fogged up and they could not see. CO Maki stated that it probably wasn't a good idea to be operating at those speeds with no vision of the trail. CO Maki issued a citation for careless operation.
- **COs Andrea Dani, Steve Butzin,** and **Brandon Maki** patrolled Little Bay De Noc checking fishermen. COs issued 7 citations ranging from fishing without a license, fishing with more than 3 lines, and possessing an undersized pike.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** assisted in instructing Snowmobile Enforcement Training for the new COs in the field. The training was at the Porcupine Mountains and consisted of classroom law and hands-on riding. All new COs did a great job and were eager to return to their assigned counties to work the trails.

- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** assisted the Michigan State Police and Luce County Sheriff's department in a search warrant in a remote part of Luce County only accessible by snowmobile. An ex-couple had recently broken up and the male half had reportedly began killing their animals in retaliation. It was also determined that the man was a felon and could not possess a firearm. The man was taken into custody at a separate location and the COs assisted in transporting officers to the location to administer a search warrant at the residence. A total of 19 animals were discovered dead. Officers also located the firearm that was used and possessed by the man. The man was lodged in the Luce County jail for the offenses and a report was generated by the Michigan State Police for animal cruelty and felon in possession of a firearm.
- **District 2 COs** conducted two days of heightened snowmobile patrols in Chippewa County for the 56th annual I-500 snowmobile race. During the patrols which began on Friday, January 31 and continued through the night of Saturday, February 1 COs contacted over 598 snowmobilers. They issued 24 citations and 76 verbal warnings for various violations that consisted of careless operation of a snowmobile, unregistered snowmobile, fail to display snowmobile registration decals, no trail permits, fail to attach trail permits, and included ORV violations, all of which were discovered on the surrounding trail system.