



Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

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

April UP Field Deputy Update – Stacy Haughey

April 18, 2021

Contact: [Doug Rich](#), 906-353-6651

DNR approves land gift increasing acreage at Craig Lake State Park in Marquette County

The U.P. Land Conservancy has gifted nearly 1,300 acres of pristine highlands wilderness in Marquette County to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to protect the property from degradation and maintain public access.

“We are please to have this wonderful legacy donation to add to the very special Craig Lake State Park,” said Ron Olson, chief of the DNR’s Parks and Recreation Division.

The property includes three parcels that made up the conservancy’s Peshekee Headwaters Nature Preserve, which lies along the eastern edge of Craig Lake State Park.

Among its attributes, the property contains nearly 90% of the watershed that fills Indian Lake, which is headwaters of the West Branch of the Peshekee River, along with 10 miles of hiking trails that connect to the adjacent state park.

“The watershed, lake and river are a source of freshwater that provides healthy drinking water and clean fish to eat, provides many kinds of safe recreation for the community and visitors, and supports healthy forest ecosystems downstream,” said Andrea Denham, executive director of the conservancy. “The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is the best partner in continued protection of this freshwater resource given the work they already do to protect forests and fresh waters in the Peshekee River Watershed.”

To the DNR, this gift improves access to 120 acres of state ownership, provides additional recreation opportunities, including hiking, hunting, trapping and fishing, and ensures the land remains open to the public and enjoyed for generations to come. The land is home to diverse wildlife including moose, bears, white-tailed deer, wolves and loons.

“This property augments the remarkable remote landscape at Craig Lake State Park,” said Doug Rich, western Upper Peninsula district supervisor for the DNR’s Parks and Recreation Division. “The acquisition also helps achieve department goals and supports strategies and plans involving trails, public lands and protecting natural resources for the future.”

Under the transaction, the conservancy will pay \$62,000 in back taxes on the property. After which, Marquette County will be eligible for payments in lieu of taxes on the land from the state of Michigan.

Michigamme Township unanimously supported a resolution in favor of the gift of land at their Nov. 8, 2021 township board meeting.

DNR staff in the Parks and Recreation Division moved the gifting proposal forward to the department’s real estate and executive divisions for consideration. The transaction was approved and signed by DNR Director Dan Eichinger and announced at this month’s meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission.

[Craig Lake State Park](#), encompassing just under 8,500 acres, has walk-in campsites and other camping options, including yurts and rustic cabins. It is the most remote state park in Michigan.

The park contains six full lakes and a variety of wildlife. Craig Lake has a main trail covering 8 miles, while the National North Country Scenic Trail runs here too for more than 7 miles.

Find out more about the [land gift](#).

REMINDER: Hiring seasonal park positions for spring, summer and fall

Whether you want to spend more time in some of Michigan’s most beautiful destinations, keep busy in retirement or lay the foundation for a career in natural resources, one of hundreds of positions as a seasonal park worker or ranger with the DNR Parks and Recreation Division may be right for you.

There are approximately 1,300 seasonal park worker positions available in state parks, state forest campgrounds, boating access sites and harbors. These frontline staff help answer visitor questions, register campers, clean park buildings, mow grass, maintain trails and more. The positions start at an hourly rate of \$10.20 or \$11 (depending on region) and offer flexible scheduling (up to 1,040 hours between April and October) and may qualify for academic or internship credit.

More than 50 seasonal park rangers also will be hired throughout the state. A park ranger helps carry out day-to-day operations and maintenance and other essential duties. Positions are paid between \$18.29 and \$25.70 an hour and receive state employment benefits. To apply, visit Michigan.gov/DNRJobs:

- **Seasonal park worker positions:** Should be 18 or older and have a high school diploma or equivalent. Provide your name, email, phone number and desired work location(s) on the interest form. Applying should take less than five minutes. Interested applicants also can text “Hire” to 80888 and receive a link to the interest form.
- **Seasonal park ranger positions:** Must be 18 or older and have a high school diploma or equivalent. Complete a State of Michigan employment application.

“If you love Michigan’s great outdoors and are looking for a seasonal position with flexible hours, come work where you like to spend time the most,” said Michael Desnoyer, administrative services chief for the DNR Parks and Recreation Division. “These positions are also ideal for college students, teachers and retirees.” Learn more about these and other openings at Michigan.gov/DNRJobs. Questions? Contact [Michael Desnoyer](mailto:Michael.Desnoyer@Michigan.gov) at 517-242-2194

Remaining Wolf Management Advisory Council Meetings

May 17, 2022	9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Marquette Township Community Center 1000 Commerce Drive Marquette, MI 49855
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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: www.michigan.gov/DNRMeetings and click on the appropriate meeting and/or agenda for instructions.

- April 27 Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens’ Advisory Council, 6:30pm, in Newberry
- April 28 Wildlife Through Forestry Series: Trail Cam Forum, 6:30pm, Michigan Iron Industry Museum (see www.michigan.gov/DNRCalendar)
- May 10 Michigan Iron Industry Museum Board, 3pm (call 906-475-7857)
- May 12 Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Thompsonville (call 517-599-1067)
- May 17 Wolf Management Advisory Committee–Meeting, 9am, Marquette Township Community Center (call 517-599-1067)
- May 17 Western Upper Peninsula Citizens’ Advisory Council, 6pm, Marquette Township Community Center
- May 17 UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, 1pm, Berland area
- May 18 UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, 1pm, Baraga area

May 18	Equine Trails Subcommittee, 1pm (contact 517-331-6219)
May 19	UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, TBD, Shingleton area
May 20	Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council, 10am (call 517-582-3220)
May 24	Accessibility Advisory Council, 9am (contact 517-284-5946)
June 9	Forest Compartment Review-Baraga Management Unit (call 906-201-4688)
June 17	UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, TBD, Sault Ste. Marie area

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

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

June 11	Kids Fishing Day at the DNR Pocket Park (UP State Fairgrounds)-Free for kids 16 years & younger
June 11-12	Free Fishing Weekend
June 11-12	Free ORV Weekend
August 15-21	DNR Pocket Park / UP State Fair Week – See Kristi to Volunteer!

Other Good Information to Know

Recent DNR Press Releases

For full details, go to: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnrpressroom>

- DNR approves land gift increasing acreage at Craig Lake State Park (4/18/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: Unassuming heroes (4/14/22)
- Michigan's 2021 deer seasons included targeted CWD surveillance, 25 positive deer (4/14/22)
- Don't touch that saw! Pruning oaks now could invite disease (4/13/22)
- DNR and MSU celebrate 20 years of lake sturgeon research and management (4/13/22)
- DNR inland fisheries surveys are critical to management in Michigan (4/12/22)
- Fish stocking creates fishing opportunities throughout Michigan (4/12/22)
- Questions about spongy moth? Get answers from this NotMISpecies webinar (4/12/22)
- DNR News: Academy for educators, forest health report, RAP Room dispatchers (4/11/22)
- Annual forest health report shares 2021 efforts, progress to protect trees (4/6/22)
- DNR News: Vernal pools, deer patch contest, engineering award and more (4/4/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: Bucket list (4/1/22)
- Whitmer celebrates record investment in state parks, planned park in Flint (4/1/22)
- Fuelwood permits available April 1 with new online purchase option (3/30/22)
- Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters program awards \$26,000 to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species (3/30/22)
- Design the 50th Anniversary DNR 2022 Deer Management Cooperator Patch (3/29/22)
- Plan now for spring treatment of hemlock woolly adelgid (3/29/22)

Grant Contacts

For grant information, to go: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-58225---,00.html>

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
Aquatic Habitat Grant	Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, parkerk4@michigan.gov
Michigan Invasive Species Grant	Kammy Frayre, 517-284-5970, frayrek1@michigan.gov
Wildlife Habitat Grant	Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, parkerk4@michigan.gov
U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant	Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, scullonh@michigan.gov

Western UPCAC Update

The **Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council** met on March 22 virtually at the Council's discretion due to extreme ice and winter conditions. The following agenda items were discussed:

- Division updates by DNR Staff
- Wolf Management Advisory Council Meeting Update by Stacy Haughey
- DNR Response to Council's January Resolution (Council Opposes Superior Solar Project Land Agreement Modification) by Stacy Haughey
- Bluesource-Michigan DNR Wolverine-Copper Country Forest Carbon Project by David Price, Forest Planning & Operations Section Manager
- Deer Camp Survey Results (deferred to next meeting due to time constraints)
- Walleye Genetics & Stocking Overview by Patrick Hanchin, Lake Superior Basin Coordinator
- 2022 Fishing Regulation Change Proposals by George Madison
- State Park Seasonal Job Openings by Doug Rich
- Reports from Committee Meetings:
 - Fisheries: Council Consideration of Resolution to Include Enhanced Walleye Rearing in DNR Fisheries Division Windfall Budget. After a few modifications, the resolution passed by majority vote.
 - Forestry, Trails/Recreation/Law, Wildlife: Reports deferred due to time constraints.
- Public Comments: 40 minutes of public comment took place regarding the Porkies Concessionaire Contract and 8 minutes regarding Genetics & Escanaba River Fish Kill and Groveland Mine Solar Array Project.
- The next WUPCAC meeting will be held on May 17 at the Marquette Township Community Center in Marquette.

The next Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council meeting will be held in person on April 27, 2022 in Newberry at the LMAS Health Department conference room. More information on both the Western and Eastern CACs can be found at www.michigan.gov/upcac.

April NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met on the campus of Lansing Community College in Lansing on April 14. Major actions:

- The commission approved [regulations for the 2022-2023 elk hunting seasons](#). The license quota structure for those seasons will be similar to that used in 2020-2021. The new regulations eliminate a provisional January hunt period, which has been available as needed in the event other hunt periods don't meet management goals. However, the January hunt period hasn't been used since 2008 and there is very little time to prepare a hunt if it is used. If management goals aren't met, the department can adjust quotas in the subsequent year.
- Director Dan Eichinger approved seven land transactions. Details of these transactions can be found [in the DNR agenda](#).

Wildlife Committee

Dr. Megan Moriarty introduced herself as the new wildlife veterinary specialist for the DNR's Wildlife Division. Together with Emily Sewell of the Wildlife Division and Dr. Nora Wineland of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, [they updated the committee on bovine tuberculosis surveillance in the state](#). Bovine TB, which affects cattle and deer and can be transmitted to humans, has been found in a number of counties in northeastern Michigan. The DNR tests deer for the disease through deer check stations, permits, drop boxes and processors. In 2021 we tested 11,791 deer. Since 1995 we have tested 334,090 deer. Apparent prevalence of the disease in adult deer in Deer Management Unit 452 – which comprises portions of Montmorency, Alpena, Alcona and Oscoda counties – was 1.4 percent in 2021, down from previous years. However, Dr. Moriarty emphasized that we will have to wait for subsequent years to see if this data point constitutes a trend. Dr. Wineland also explained surveillance efforts in cattle herds. The presenters emphasized

the importance of proper farming practices, continued surveillance, ongoing vigilance and cooperation among state agencies to eradicate bovine TB in Michigan.

Scott Whitcomb of the Executive Division and Melinda Cosgrove of the Wildlife Division [gave a presentation on surveillance of chronic wasting disease in deer](#). CWD has been identified in 10 counties in Michigan. In 2021 the DNR tested just under 7,200 deer for the disease. Twenty-five CWD positive deer were detected in 2021, including three in Isabella County, which represented a new county in which we have identified the disease. Through the 2021 deer seasons, the department implemented more targeted testing goals, following a region-by-region strategy aimed at detecting new outbreaks of CWD rather than revisiting known ones. This year the department tested deer across counties in the southern Lower Peninsula. Next year testing will concentrate on the middle tier of Lower Peninsula counties and continue in some counties in the southern Lower Peninsula. We will continue to rotate surveillance efforts to different parts of the state to determine the scope of CWD in Michigan, while supporting limited testing in areas of known occurrence of the disease.

Chad Stewart of the Wildlife Division presented to the committee [an overview of deer management in Michigan](#). The department's deer management plan focuses on maintaining a healthy deer population using sound scientific management and maximizing recreational opportunities while minimizing negative impacts on ecosystems and other wildlife. Chad reviewed the tools the department has at its disposal to manage the state's deer herd, which include: hunter numbers; bag limits; seasons and season dates; weapons used for harvest; and the types of deer harvested. Chad's summary conclusions about deer management:

- Deer hunting has changed over recent years and will continue to change. Our management has to continue to respond to these changes.
- Multiple data sets are measured to detect trends that occur over time. These data are used to support recommendations.
- Deer research is widely supported and used to inform management decisions.

Committee of the Whole

Seth Herbst of the Fisheries Division presented [proposed changes to lake trout harvest and regulations in Northern Lake Huron](#). The 2000 Consent Decree -- an agreement among federal, state and tribal governments -- dictates that if either the state or tribes exceed agreed-upon harvest levels by more than 15 percent in one year, the amount of the overage is deducted from the next year's harvest limit and the responsible party is required to take management action. During the 2021 fishing season, the state exceeded its harvest limit by 20 percent. Although this over-harvest was not biologically harmful to lake trout populations, the department expects to have to reduce harvest in 2022 from about 68,000 pounds to about 40,000 pounds. To achieve that goal, the department is recommending reducing the daily possession limit from 3 lake trout and splake to 2 in MH-1, the northern-most management unit in Lake Huron. The department is considering increasing the harvest level in the management unit immediately to the south, MH-2, to provide increased angler opportunity there. The proposal for increased harvest in MH-2 will be discussed with the Lake Huron Fishery Citizen Advisory Committee before the department finalizes any recommendation.

A report on legislation affecting the department is below.

How to Participate in the NRC Meetings

- If you're unable to attend the meeting but wish to submit written comments on agenda items, please write to: Natural Resources Commission, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909 or email: nrc@michigan.gov.
- If you would like further information or would like to address the Commission, please contact the NRC Assistant at 517-599-1067 or email: nrc@michigan.gov. Persons registering on or before the Friday preceding the meeting will be allowed up to five (5) minutes for their presentation. Persons registering after the Friday preceding the meeting or at the meeting will be allowed up to three (3) minutes. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the NRC Assistant.
- Look for the agendas and other Natural Resources Commission items at the Natural Resources Commission webpage (www.michigan.gov/NRC).

HB 4078 – Allow an Individual to Possess a Loaded Firearm in or on a Vehicle when on Private Property – Rep.

LaFave: The bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to possess or transport a loaded firearm in or upon a vehicle, including an ATV or UTV, if the individual owns the private land or is accompanied by or has permission of the owner or lessee of the private land.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and was referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

HB 4080 (S-1) – Allow Pneumatic Guns During Certain Seasons – Rep. LaFave: This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide the NRC the ability to allow an individual to use a pneumatic gun during any firearm season. The bill would also give the Department the ability to determine whether a pneumatic gun could be allowed during archery season for individual with a disability or physical limitation for the 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 archery season. The legislation caps the available permit up to ten individuals who submit certification from medical professional on a form the department must develop.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and reported with recommendation as an S-1 by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. The bill is currently awaiting a vote on the Senate floor.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

HB 4152 (S-4) – Modify Penalties for Violations of Certain Hunting Provisions – Rep. Howell: The bill would decriminalize the several hunting and fishing provisions from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine up to \$150.00.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. The bill has been signed into law by the Governor and is Public Act 23 of 2022.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HB 4242 (S-2) – Allow Export of Live Minnows, Wigglers or Crayfish as Bait – Rep. Alexander: This bill would allow for the export of live minnow, wigglers, or crayfish as bait.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. The bill has been signed into law by the Governor and is Public Act 30 of 2022.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HBs 4205 and 4206 – Provide Free Snowmobile Weekend on Snowmobile Trails – Reps. Roth and S. Johnson:

House Bill 4205 would require that before the start of each snowmobile season, the Department would be required to designate one weekend in the snowmobile season during which a registration would not be required to operate a snowmobile on snowmobile trails. House Bill 4206 would require that before the start of each snowmobile season, the Department would be required to designate one weekend in the snowmobile season during which a trail permit would not be required to operate a snowmobile on snowmobile trails.

- These bills were passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. The bills have been signed into law by the Governor and as Public Acts 55 and 56 of 2022.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HB 4332 (H-1) – Modify Placement of Off-Road Vehicle Stickers – Rep. S. Johnson: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the license for a 2-wheel vehicle to be attached to either of the following: centered on the exposed surface of the rear fender or located at a visible place on a front suspension fork.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. The bill has been signed into law by the Governor and is Public Act 57 of 2022.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

HB 5631 – Require Creation of Michigan Woodcock Restoration Plan – Rep. Cherry: This bill would put into statute a requirement that the Department must create an American woodcock restoration plan in consultation with several organizations outlined in the legislation by December 31, 2023.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and one hearing has been held.

- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

HB 5642 – Designate Official State Butterfly – Rep. Brixie: This bill designates the black swallowtail butterfly as the official butterfly of the state of Michigan.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

HB 5740 – Seven Day Hunting License for Senior Citizens – Rep. Eisen: This bill would create a seven-day senior deer license for a fee of \$12.00 that would be valid for taking antlered or antlerless deer during any seven-day period from October 1 to November 1 with a firearm on private land.

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

HB 5902 – Regulate the Use of Bait During Hunting Season – Rep. Eisen: The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow for the baiting of deer and elk.

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

SB 251 (S-2) – Modify Commercial Fishing Regulations – Sen. McBroom: The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act for the purpose of restricting the DNR’s authority to issue Fisheries Orders for the management of the state-licensed commercial fishery. In addition, the bill would make a number of changes including putting current fisheries orders into statute.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. The bill has been signed into law by the Governor and is Public Act 34 of 2022.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

If you would like to learn more about these and other bills, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at www.legislature.mi.gov.

Division Updates

Eastern UP Fisheries Division – Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Biologist, Lake Superior Mgmt Unit

Unit Update

- During the first and second week of April, Fisheries Division held three in-person Conversation and Coffee meetings in the East UP. Meetings were held in Munising, Newberry, and Sault Ste. Marie. Topics covered were regulation change reminders for 2022, local regulation change proposals for 2023, and an update on area fieldwork projects. In total from the three meetings, attendance was eight members of the public.
- Michigan Sea Grant in cooperation with Michigan DNR-Fisheries, held a virtual Lake Superior Workshop on March 22. The workshop focuses on components of the Lake Superior fishery. Presentations were provided from US Fish and Wildlife Service, Michigan DNR-Fisheries, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Topics presented were the lake trout satellite tagging study, sea lamprey control update, aquatic invasive species detection, PFOS/PFAS detection, and lake sturgeon population status. The workshop had 52 attendees. For more information on other Michigan Sea Grant Workshops please visit [Fisheries Workshops | Michigan Sea Grant](#).
- Fisheries field staff has been busy conducting winter limnological profiles on area lakes. These profiles measure dissolved oxygen levels in the water column during the winter months. Dissolved oxygen levels if too low, can result in winterkill conditions or limit survival of some fish especially trout. Limnological profiles conducted in 2022 were Silver Creek Pond, Millecoquins Pond, Brockies Pond, Deer Lake, Sid Lake, Holland Lake, Gulliver Lake, Trueman Lake, Dodge Lake, and Island Lake.

- Fisheries field staff has continued maintenance of field sampling equipment over the past two months. Staff have repaired netting gear used in lake surveys as well as nets used in walleye rearing pond harvest. Following the delivery of the new Smith Root electrofishing boat, staff have tweaked layout and functionality of the trailer.
- Supervisory staff have been working on hiring creel clerks for the upcoming St. Mary's River creel survey. In 2022, the upper, middle, and lower St. Mary's River will be creeled using three clerks. In addition to the river, the creel survey will also include Whitefish Bay. This will be the first ever creel survey for the Whitefish Bay recreational fishery.
- Creel surveys on Munising Bay and Grand Marais are ongoing. The creel clerk has been in Munising during the ice season and will be scheduled in Grand Marais as the ice goes out. Other creel ports of note in the Eastern UP include, Cedarville/Hessel, St. Ignace, Manistique, and Marquette.
- Fisheries managers have continued working with partners on area habitat improvement projects. These projects are seeking multiple funding sources from multiple grants. Projects of interest include Sucker River H-58 crossing and lamprey weir, Au Train Lake habitat improvement, and a road stream crossing on Cedar Creek in Marquette County.
- The Lake Superior Citizens Fisheries Advisory Committee meet virtually on April 6. 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 \(michigan.gov\)](#)
- Fisheries managers drafted a Status of the Fishery Resource Report for Silver Creek Pond, Luce County. Silver Creek Pond is a stocked brook trout lake with a dam owned and maintained by Fisheries Division. The final report will be posted to the Michigan DNR-Fisheries library in late spring.
- Fisheries staff attended the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society at Lake Superior State University. In addition to the presentations from fisheries students and scientists of Michigan entities, the meeting held a poster session and social event at the new Center for Freshwater Research and Education.
- Muskellunge harvest registration update. The 2021/22 harvest season for muskellunge closed on March 15, 2022. A final total of 23 muskellunge were reported in the harvest registration system. This number is down from the previous year's harvest which was 46 in 2020/21. A total of 23 muskellunge were harvested in 2019/20 and 28 muskellunge were harvested in 2018/19. The 2022/23 harvest season for muskellunge statewide begins on the first Saturday in June.

Cormorant Program Update from Randy Claramunt, Lake Huron Basin Coordinator

- Starting in 2021 there was a new Federal Permit system established allowing States to apply for control of cormorants. Under that permit system, here is a summary of the activities for cormorant control to date:
- Last year the FWS approved a new permit system allowing states and tribal gov to apply for lethal control of cormorants. Michigan was one of the first states to apply and get approval for cormorant control. However, we do not have internal funding allocated for control activities so we had to utilize USDA funds for all of our control work but it was more limited than we wanted because of the lack of state funding. We requested lethal control, statewide, of over 10K birds but only controlled approximately 2,500 statewide.
- As part of the permit system, we query all of our fisheries managers and field biologists each year to provide locations where cormorant conflicts exist in the state. We currently have 50+ sites where conflicts exist.
- Next, we facilitated a meeting with Wildlife Division, Fisheries staff, and USDA-Wildlife services to discuss the results of control for 2021 and our plans for 2022. From that meeting, it was concluded that USDA only has funds to control at the large nesting colonies similar to last year. Again, last year we were permitted for 10K+ birds to be taken, but only controlled approximately 2,500. We have estimated that \$150-250K per year would be needed to fully fund the control program at the state level.
- In 2022, we are asking for around 9,500 for our take levels, but unless funding is available, then actual control will be much lower at around 2,500. Prior to the Federal Court temporarily shutting down cormorant control in 2016 (leading to the new permit system in 2021), DNR had \$150K in general funds allocated to cormorant control but was later removed from the budget until the state's ability to control cormorants was sorted out. Funding for cormorant control has not yet been reinstated.

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

Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island

- Lime Island AST cleaning & Hazardous Material Assessment: Received cost estimates from consultant and asked for more detail with better breakdown of the cost.
- Lime Island Harbor upgrade project: Tentative construction to start in late July/early August.
- Brimley Toilet/Shower building replacement: Construction continues.... most of the building exterior work completed (cedar, roofing). Interior floors (grinding/polishing) is almost complete. Starting this week on interior plumbing. Project is still on schedule for completion date of June 22, 2022.
- Hiring summer positions with not many interested candidates.... especially at DeTour Harbor.
- Brimley has one Seasonal Ranger who will be graduating from PRD law academy on 4/15/22 and will return to work at Brimley.
- All Seasonal Ranger are back from seasonal layoff.
- Held interviews for the vacant DeTour Ranger A position. A candidate was selected and waiting for approval from HR to offer.
- Brimley: Campground has been closed since September 7th for construction of Toilet/shower buildings and will tentatively open by June 22, 2022.
- DeTour State Harbor is scheduled to open on May 15, 2022.
- Lime Island Recreation Area is scheduled to open on June 6, 2022.
- Staff have stopped grooming Algonquin ski trail for the season. It was a good ski season with normal trail usage.
- Conely Point BAS continues to be busy with Munuscong Bay perch anglers.
- DeTour and Brimley are not getting much interest in summer staff positions.
- Supervisor and Ranger Staff have been planning/prepping for Spring/Summer 22' projects.
- Rangers have been completing preventative maintenance on park/harbor equipment.
- Snow is finally starting to melt after an above average winter for snowfall.
- Lime Tern nesting improvements will continue this Spring on Lime with the assistance of Ben Travis (PRD Stewardship)

Fayette Historic State Park

- Townsite: General reactionary maintenance to window sashes, doors, locks, siding, etc. Restoration work to back porch & siding on hotel
- Park: Plowing, shoveling, begin remodeling of The Company Store within Visitor Center. Water Treatment Plant upgrade continues
- Gearing up for State Worker interviews and securing returners
- Camp nights – first full season of winter camping: 37 camp nights
- XC ski/snowshoe trails groomed & track set through the 3rd week of March

Indian Lake State Park & Palms Book State Park

- Palms Book septic replacement project has a pre-bid mandatory walk through on site scheduled for May 4th.
- Indian Lake State Park toilet building replacement project has scheduled a hazardous material inspection for the end of April or early May on the last toilet building.
- Alec Frenette has been hired for a Seasonal Ranger position at Indian Lake State Park.
- Jackie Gould has been hired as a Seasonal Ranger for Indian Lake/Shingleton office.
- In the process of hiring returning STW's.
- Recruitment for summer workers has proven once again to be a challenge. We only have received three applications for at least eight open summer positions so far.

Tahquamenon Falls State Park

- Lower Falls Concession Store Remodel/Replacement project: Olsen & Olsen will be starting demolition work to the existing concession building and bathroom building soon. Snow levels are still over 2 feet in some areas which delaying startup operations.
- Lower Falls Boat Concession/Island Redevelopment project: Olsen & Olsen have recently restarted construction operations after a long winter. Construction projects this season will consist of mainland boardwalk repairs, boathouse repairs, and island trail work.
- Whitefish Point Harbor Redevelopment study: Nearing completion.
- Park Rangers had a busy winter plowing snow, grooming ski trails, and doing maintenance on summer equipment. We are now transitioning into springtime operations; water sampling procedures, opening campgrounds and bathroom buildings.
- Seasonal Park Rangers returned to work on April 4th.
- Park Ranger Jen Smaltz will be graduating from the Law Enforcement Academy on April 15th
- A total of 201 camping nights in the lower falls Hemlock Campground for February, March, and April. We had 15 occupied nights in the Lodge
- Theresa Neal had some busy Saturdays in February with guided snowshoe hike numbers totaling 156 people. The lantern lit trail nights were busy as well seeing 856 people.
- Snowfall total for the winter was 167 inches.

Straits State Park & Mackinac Island State Harbor

- Hoping to get a pre-bid meeting scheduled for the Mackinac Island Harbor toilet shower building project
- Hoping we are on schedule to get the building Michigan together funding for Straits upper toilet shower buildings and hold a pre-bid meeting to select a contractor and start construction this fall.
- Brevort Lake BAS site will hire a consultant to come up with design and cost for new ramp and designated route and parking.
- Father Marquette is nearing the end on design for a new learning center and powwow grounds.
- Hiring summer staff is still very difficult if you know of anyone looking to work for the parks send them our way.
- Winter hiking and skiing attendance was very strong all winter long. Staff kept a groomed trail all winter with plenty of snow.
- It appears by numbers of reservations Straits will have another extremely busy summer with very few openings and those only happening mid-week.

Muskallonge Lake State Park

- No major projects or construction occurring at this time.
- Seasonal Rangers Jeff Freeborn and Kelly Gribbell have been recalled from seasonal layoff.
- A new Seasonal Ranger position has been funded at Muskallonge Lake. Carolyn Grzegorzcyk has been hired to fill this position and started on April 4th. Carolyn has worked at Port Crescent State Park and Bay City State Park as a Ranger and is transitioning quickly into her new role at Muskallonge Lake.
- Interviews and recruiting for state worker 4 positions is ongoing. 7 of 11 of these positions have been filled with start dates ranging from late April through May.
- The campground at Muskallonge Lake was scheduled to open semi-modern on April 15th. Due to the amount of snow still lingering, the opening date has been pushed out to May 2nd. Reservations during this period have been contacted and either chose a refund or have moved their reservations into May.
- Access to State Forest Campgrounds is still restricted by snow.

Newberry Field Office

- County Line BAS Improvements: This project advertised for bids in 2021, with all bids coming in over budget. The project team is assessing the current bidding climate to determine if rebidding in 2022 might produce more favorable results.
- Milakokia Lake BAS Improvements: Design has been completed and the project team awaits funding for construction, which could potentially happen in 2023.

- 5 vault toilets have been constructed and are slated for replacement this summer at Lake Superior SFC, Mouth of the Two-Hearted SFC, & South Manistique SFC.
- 8 new picnic tables will be constructed to replace existing, worn-out tables.
- Road grading/repair at all BAS & SFC facilities in the EUP District
- BAS ramp repairs at Indian Lake SP
- Maintenance ramp dredging at various locations in the EUP District
- Culvert replacement at Kaks Lake BAS
- Interviews for the vacant Supervisor position will be held in the coming weeks. All other career staff are back on the payroll with non-career STW staff coming on board at the end of April.
- The State Forest campgrounds remain closed with heavy snow cover restricting access.

Forest Resources Division: Scott Lakosky, Eastern UP Supervisor

Timber Sales

- This past winter was good for logging in the EUP, there was abundant snow and cold temperatures. Because of this many sales on winter ground that require frozen conditions were able to be harvested. With the onset of spring break up and seasonal weight restrictions, logging crews moved from their winter sales to those with all season access. It is looking like the spring break up period may drag on longer than in recent years.
- In the last several month 19 timber sales were advertised in the EUP. The Shingleton FMU advertised 8 sales and all 8 sales sold with several bidders on each sale bring a good price for those sales. The Newberry FMU advertised 7 timber sales, 3 of those sales went no-bid. Those 3 sales were on lowland ground that limits operations to winter months. The Sault FMU advertised 4 timber sales, 2 of those sales went no bid but one was eventually purchased at minimum bid prices.
- There are currently 7 prospectuses advertised in the EUP containing 22 timber sales. These sales will be sold in the months of April and May.
- During the winter season, timber sale preparation activity slows and shifts to work on treatments where sale layout and cruising can be completed in the winter. This winter work was completed by DNR Staff and Contractors to prepare both state and GNA timber sales

Forest Inventory

- Good progress was made this winter at completing field work for compartments in the 2024 year of entry which are currently being reviewed.
- Staff from the EUP participated in meetings where they were able to provide input on the desired future condition of the forest, which will help inform the new State Forest Management Plan and the modeling effort that is underway. Public input opportunities will occur at a later date.

Cultivation

- Cultivation activities will be ramping up over the next few weeks. The Shingleton unit will kick off the season with trenching planned to start the week of April 18th in the southern end of the unit.
- Current plans for 2022:
 - Over 1 million seedlings to be planted (about ¾ of which are red pine and ¼ jack pine). The planting is scheduled to start on May 2nd in the EUP and last for about 2 weeks.
 - About 650 acres will be treated with herbicide using a helicopter and 200 acres will be treated using a skidder. All herbicide work will be done through contract.
 - Approximately 130 acres of precommercial thinning will be done to release red pine and oak.
 - DNR staff will roller chop 870 acres along with over 890 acres of anchor chain scarification and 1500 acres of trenching.

Fire

- Fire staff are busy preparing equipment for the upcoming season. Spring staffing schedule started on April 17th. Equipment and staff from the UP will be ready to respond to fires locally and assist other areas of the state with fire staffing and prescribed burns as needed.
- The Western UP has already had a few fires and as the woods dry out in the EUP conditions will increase quickly.

- During the month of March, we were able to send six firefighters from across Michigan to Texas with tractor/plow units to assist in wildfire protection and suppression activities. Michigan firefighters were able to gain experience and training using their tractor/plow units on wildfires that will be useful here in Michigan.
- All fire line qualified staff received their annual refresher training this past month.
- Multiple fire trainings were held this winter and attended by staff.
- The snowmobile trail grooming season has now come to a close and Fires Officers are working to wrap up trail grooming paperwork and looking ahead to the off-season trail maintenance and projects with the local trail grant sponsors.

Road and Bridge

- The Sault FMU is working with partners to seek grant funding to replace failing culverts.
- The Newberry FMU is soliciting for engineering bids to design 4 stream crossing upgrades along the Charcoal Grade. Portions of the Chris Brown Lake Road and Pullup Lakes Road are on track to be repaired/upgraded this summer, the bid for that project has been awarded.
- The Shingleton FMU is waiting on the snow to melt so the engineering firm they are working with can begin design for work for the Stanley Lake Crossing. Bids are also going out for a 50' portable bridge for crossing Holland Creek.
- FRD Fire staff and contractors will be working to complete the culvert inventory work this summer.

Facilities

- In the Shingleton Unit, facility improvements include the new fire shop in Manistique which is in the design phase, the new flooring in the Shingleton Office, adding insulation to the Shingleton fire garage to increase energy efficiency and make more of the facility useable year-round.
- Plans for construction of the new Newberry Mass Timber office building are progressing. The timber in front of the Newberry Field Office was cut in preparation to construct the new office. Soil borings have been conducted and the building is in the final design phases with that plan getting ready for review.

Good Neighbor Authority

- FRD forestry staff administered active GNA timber sales throughout the winter and worked to prepare timber sales scheduled for this year. Two GNA timber sales on the East Zone of the Hiawatha are currently advertised and set to bid in early May.
- EUP fire staff assisted with the GNA survey pilot project. They assisted the survey crew with clearing of property lines along the Hiawatha National Forest boundary.

Forest Health

- Winter surveys for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) continue near the Lake Michigan shoreline with our Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) partners. The woolly material produced by the insect is most visible at the base of needles during the winter and early spring. No HWA has been detected in the Upper Peninsula to date.
- The forest health program has been collecting branches from surviving large elms in the coldest areas of Michigan for propagation and use in efforts to breed Dutch elm disease tolerant elms. Reports of large healthy elm trees (DBH greater than 22 inches) from inland areas are welcomed at the [survivor elm website](#).

Cooperative Forest Management

- Approximately 20 forest management plans were reviewed & approved from Jan - April for the EUP.
- EUP Service Forester worked with industry foresters throughout the EUP to remove No Trespassing Signs or Private Property signs that have been posted on Commercial Forest Lands.
- EUP Service Forester did random field inspections throughout the East UP to see if lands enrolled in the Commercial Forest Program were adhering to the rules.

Land Use

- The field level review of the Delta County Land Review is complete and moving onto the next phase.
- Staff are reviewing an easement request for fiber optic utilities in the Newberry FMU.

- EUP Staff are working with the Trespass Specialist to resolve historic trespass cases involving gates, cabins and other items on state land.
- The Sault FMU was recently able to purchase a vacant forty-acre parcel near Dafter which was surrounded by state-owned land.

Vacancies

- The EUP District Manager position has been filled.
- The Forest Fire Officer 10 position in Manistique has been filled.
- Interviews were held for Forest Technician positions in Naubinway and Newberry. Currently working to offer and fill those positions.
- Both the EUP Inventory and Planning Specialist and EUP Private Lands Forester vacancies are currently filled in a Working Out of Class situation, allowing valuable experience to be gained by division staff while keeping necessary projects and tasks moving forward.

EUP Wildlife Division: Jane Roohr, Wildlife Technician-Newberry

General Wildlife Reminders

- Leave baby animals alone – young animals are often left alone, but the parents are never far. For example, does leave their fawns for extended periods of time to help them stay safe from predators. Young animals are rarely abandoned and their best chance for survival is to remain in the wild.
- To avoid bear problems, take down bird feeders, remove or secure any other items that could attract bear including garbage and pet foods, and keep grills clean. Most bear complaints are resolved by removing food sources like bird feeders.
- The spring turkey season is April 23 – May 31 in Unit M (the UP), except for hunters with a Hunt 0234 license which may be used May 7 – May 31. Visit Michigan.gov/Turkey for more information and a link to leftover licenses.
- Furbearer registrations are winding down as otter trapping season closed on March 31. Throughout the winter and early spring, staff have registered furbearers by appointment or on days offices were open to the public. The registration process allows information about each species to be obtained to help monitor and manage the populations.

Surveys

- During the winter, staff surveyed for deer wintering activity. Observations help identify where activity is each year and will be helpful for future reviews of deer wintering complexes.
- During the winter, staff worked on the winter wolf track survey. Results from this year's survey can be expected this summer.
- Snow is receding but conditions are now above the long-term average (since 2004). The 2021-22 winter has had snow greater than 12" deep for over 95 days, suggesting that this can be considered a severe winter and may impact overwinter deer survival. Recent warm-ups and rain events have helped to melt the snow recently, although areas to the north may still have persisting snow amounts. Snow depths are assessed throughout the winter using results available through NOAA.
- Staff are conducting spring deer surveys focusing on fawn observations compared to total deer observations as deer began leaving the wintering areas. The survey is intended to provide some insight on fawn recruitment into the adult population.
- Sharp-tailed grouse surveys began April 1. The survey window continues into early May. Results of the surveys are used to help monitor the sharp-tail population. Sharp-tailed grouse hunting continues to be an opportunity in portions of eastern Chippewa and Mackinac counties.
- The American woodcock singing-ground survey will begin in the UP starting April 25 and go to May 20.
- Ruffed Grouse Drumming surveys will be conducted by regional staff between April 20- May 10. Grouse drumming surveys can provide an index of long-term trends in grouse populations as well as monitor the grouse "cycle".

Ongoing Projects

- Staff are preparing for upcoming field work including maintaining hunter walking trails, seeding plots, planting mast producing trees and shrubs for wildlife, maintaining infrastructure and recreational access to sites, road/parking lot improvements, etc.
- Staff continue to work with partners on the Shore to Shore Birding Trail, with a kick-off event planned to occur at the Wild Blueberry Festival in Paradise this coming August. Currently print materials, interpretive signs and a website are under development for the trail.

Additional

- Seasonal wildlife assistants will soon be coming on staff at each office to assist with nuisance wildlife calls, surveys, habitat management projects, and maintenance activities.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus (H5N1 Eurasian strain or EA H5) has been detected in wild birds in all waterfowl flyways in North America since December 2021. Subsequently, the virus has been detected in the eastern and central U.S. in healthy hunter-harvested and live-sampled waterfowl, and in wild birds found dead individually or during mortality events, as well as numerous backyard and commercial poultry flocks. In Michigan, the initial HPAI detection in a wild bird was a healthy mute swan in Monroe County collected on March 15, 2022.
- The current HPAI outbreak is dynamic and continued vigilance is needed to protect the health of people, domestic animals, and wildlife.
- Waterfowl and other aquatic birds, raptors, and scavengers are at elevated risk of infection, but any bird species is susceptible. Avian influenza viruses naturally circulate in waterbirds (waterfowl and shorebirds), with or without clinical signs. Avian predators or scavengers (eagles, other raptors, crows, ravens, gulls, or vultures) may be exposed when feeding on infected waterbirds especially during mortality events. In poultry, HPAI H5N1 is highly contagious and causes significant mortality. Avian influenza viruses are shed in bodily fluids such as saliva, nasal secretions, and feces. They can be transmitted directly from an infected bird or indirectly through people or objects contaminated with virus particles (e.g., animal crates, bedding, perches, feathers, food, water, clothing, footwear, vehicles).
- Clinical signs of avian influenza are highly variable and nonspecific and could be due to other causes. Wild birds can also show no clinical signs (asymptomatic carriers). In general, signs may develop within 3-21 days after exposure and may include:
 - Sudden death; increased mortality in a flock
 - Neurological signs (tremors, abnormal head/neck position, circling, inability to stand, paralysis)
 - Inappetence, weakness, lethargy, and/or diarrhea
 - Difficulty breathing, sneezing, nasal discharge, and/or coughing
 - Swelling of the head, eyelids, neck, and/or hocks; purple discoloration of legs
- No known human infections have been detected in the US, however this strain (EA H5) of HPAI has the potential to infect people, birds, and some mammals.
- If you notice the death of three or more free-ranging birds, report it to the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab at 517-336-5030.
- If a domestic flock is experiencing severe illness or multiple death losses, contact MDARD at 800-292-3939 or for after-hours emergencies call 517-373-0440.
- Additional Avian Influenza website links:
 - [Michigan DNR Press Release - Wild birds confirmed positive 3/24/2022](#)
 - [Michigan Department of Agriculture Press Release - First domestic positive in Upper Peninsula](#)
 - [Michigan DNR Wildlife Disease Manual - Avian Influenza](#)

Public Information Office: John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer

- The 2021-2022 season of Ask the DNR will conclude May 5 on WNMU-TV13. The 2022-2023 season will begin next fall.
- We have had a great season of shows, with panelists returning to the studio after the long coronavirus hiatus. In the coming season, we will continue to feature guests from various divisions of the DNR. This season, we had

representatives from the Forest Resources and Executive divisions, in addition to the standard presence of personnel from the Law Enforcement, Fisheries and Wildlife divisions. We also had several new folks on the show this season. That's fantastic! If you are interested in suggesting a potential panelist or division be featured on the show, please let me know. We also welcome DNR staffers interested in working to answer phones during the show. If you would like to do this, let me know.

- The DNR's west and east incident management teams are gearing up for spring fire season. I continue to serve as a public information officer on the west team. We are looking for individuals to serve on the team, specifically in the role of PIO. We need one designated PIO and two backups. If you are interested in learning more about this, please contact me.
- Our Showcasing the DNR feature story series is published each Thursday. We are currently scheduling stories for issue from the second week in July through Jan. 31, 2023. To see the story archive visit Michigan.gov/DNRStories. Please send story ideas and offers to contribute to the increasingly popular statewide series to me at pepinj@michigan.gov.

Finance & Operations: Michelle Zellar, Eastern UP

- Customer Service Centers will be returning to being fully operational Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm, beginning May 1. Naubinway and Sault St. Marie will be doing the same. Updated COVID preparedness plans will be put into place.
- Harvesting fuelwood in state forests:
 - The fuelwood season opens April 1 and collection permits will be available for a \$20 fee. Use our fuelwood maps to determine where firewood collection is allowed. Permits may be purchased online and by mail. They are also available for purchase at [DNR Customer Service Centers and select forestry field offices](#) in the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula; call to confirm availability and business hours. Permits are for up to five standard cords of wood. Wood must be dead and down within 200 feet of a road. Fuelwood cannot be resold or traded. Permits are valid for up to 90 days after the date they are issued; all expire Dec. 31.
 - [Purchase a fuelwood permit online](#): New in 2022: Starting April 1, you can now purchase a state forest fuelwood collection permit through our online licensing system. View and print your licenses, manage your customer profile and see purchase history all in one convenient location.
 - [Mail-in permit application](#): Download a fuelwood permit application and print it to purchase a fuelwood permit by mail. Fill it out, enclose a \$20 check payable to the State of Michigan, and send it to the DNR office which manages the state forest land where you wish to collect fuelwood. If approved, your permit will be emailed or mailed to you.

April & May 2022 Season Date Reminders

- 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)
- 4/16 Spring turkey opener (for the early hunts – see digest for various unit dates)
- 4/29 Beaver trapping closes (Units B&C) – Unit A closes on 4/30/22
- 4/30 Trout opener (inland waters)
- 4/30 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)
- 5/1 Deadline for returning incidental trapping seals to DNR
- 5/10 Last day to register incidental otter taken in April – see p. 12 for details
- 5/15 Walleye and pike open in UP inland, UP Great Lakes, St. Mary's River
- 5/28 Bass opener (catch and keep season)
- 5/28 Frog, toad, salamander seasons open (until 11/15) – see p. 22
- 5/31 Hand net & dip net seasons close

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

As you will read in the Bi-weekly reports, winter across the district kept officers busy with fishermen, hunters, trappers, snowmobilers and ORVs. We have also had Probationary Conservations Officers (PCO's) (who will be assigned to various districts across the state) working with our officers. There has been an increase in littering cases which tends to occur in the spring. Please be vigilant in keeping an eye out for this activity along with vehicles/trailers loaded with junk heading into remote areas, if you see this report it.

Below is a preliminary summary of Michigan's 2021-2022 snowmobile accidents. As of this writing, this is the most current snowmobile accident/fatality summary report for the state.

2021/2022 Snowmobile Season

Crash Data

- 297 snowmobile crashes (164 were in the UP)
 - 207 were in non-traffic areas (114 in the UP were non-traffic areas)
 - **Even though non-traffic areas can technically include backcountry & private property, most of these are typically on the designated snowmobile trail system**
- Top 5 counties
 - Alger: 38
 - Chippewa: 29
 - Ontonagon: 23
 - Mackinac: 16
 - Otsego & Schoolcraft: 12

Fatalities

There was a total of 13 fatalities across the state with 8 of them occurring in the UP.

Alger: 2 (Speed was a contributing factor in both cases)

Baraga: 1 (Suspected alcohol and speed were contributing factors)

Dickinson: 1 (Speed, suspected drugs and suspected alcohol were contributing factors)

Gogebic: 1 (Speed was a contributing factor)

Mackinac: 2 (Speed was a contributing factor in one and loss of control was a contributing factor in another)

Schoolcraft: 1 (Suspected alcohol was a contributing factor)

DISTRICT 2 - 1/23/2022 – 2/5/2022

- **CO Cole VanOosten** received court disposition on a recent case involving three hunters taking seven geese after legal hunting hours. The hunters were found guilty on all counts and were ordered to pay \$3,500 in reimbursement.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** received court disposition on a recent case involving two individuals who had stolen trail cameras. Both individuals were found guilty of larceny and were ordered to pay fines and costs for the trail cameras that were stolen.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** followed up on several complaints of snowmobiles trespassing on an individual's property. CO VanOosten ensured that the property was well posted with no trespassing signs. CO VanOosten sat at the location and observed snowmobiles operating against the flow of traffic on a state highway before they pulled into the individual's yard and parking right behind a "No Snowmobile" sign. CO VanOosten contacted the group to ask if they had permission to be on the property. The riders stated that they did not. CO VanOosten pointed to the sign that clearly stated, "No snowmobiles" as well as the sign that said, "No Trespassing". CO VanOosten also showed them the sign that showed them to operate on the correct side of the road to stay off the state highway. The snowmobilers stated that they didn't see any of the signs. A citation was issued for careless operation and warnings were issued for snowmobile trespass.
- **COs Justin Vinson and PCO Cameron Wright** were out on patrol on the Big Manistique Lake for an ice fishing tournament when they found an empty ice fishing shanty with three tip-ups set around it. The COs continued their patrol on the lake while keeping that shanty in their sight. Nearly an hour later the angler returned, the COs made contact and asked the fisherman why he left his tip-ups set unattended for so long? The fisherman said he left his shanty to quickly help a friend and didn't think he would be gone for that long. The fisherman agreed with the COs that the tip-ups were left unattended for too long and a citation was issued for fishing with lines not in immediate control.
- **CO Colton Gelinas** gave a presentation about snowmobile/ice safety to the students at the Great Lakes Boat Building School. Approximately 20 students were in attendance for the presentation.

- **COs Colton Gelinias and Michael Olesen** were on snowmobile patrol in Chippewa County when they observed a snowmobile operate in a careless manner. The suspect snowmobile came across the opposite lane on a corner and almost hit CO Olesen. A citation was issued for careless operation. Snowmobilers are reminded to "Ride Right".
- **COs Cole VanOosten, Colton Gelinias, Mike Olesen, Justin Vinson, Brandon Maki, Sgt. Calvin Smith, PCOs Marissa Hassevoort and Cameron Wright** patrolled over 300 miles of snowmobile trails during the 53rd annual I-500 snowmobile race that was held in Sault Ste. Marie Michigan on February 5th. The COs contacted over 200 snowmobilers, issued 12 citations and 30 verbal warnings for various violations that consisted of expired snowmobile registration, no trail permit, and careless operation of a snowmobile.
- **CO Andrea Dani** responded with Alger County emergency medical service (EMS), Alger County Sheriff's Department, and United States Forest Service (USFS) personnel to a snowmobile crash with injuries on Trail 7, south of Doe Lake Road. The operator was travelling too fast when he hit a series of moguls and lost control, causing him to exit the trail on the left side. After colliding with several small trees and finally a large tree, the operator was ejected, and the snowmobile continued back onto the trail. The operator was transported to UP Health Systems Marquette for suspected broken femur and arm injuries. The crash is still under investigation.
- **COs Steve Butzin and Chris Lynch** successfully served over one dozen arrest warrants without incident from several different cases from last hunting season. The charges on the various warrants include take bear after legal shooting hours, possess loaded firearm after legal shooting hours, shine with a weapon in possession, several take illegal deer, loan, and use another's deer license, possess uncased firearm in a motor vehicle, and one felon in possession of a firearm who was lodged in the Delta County Jail.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was on snowmobile patrol with the Delta County Sheriff's Department in northern Delta County when he encountered a snowmobile operating in a careless manner. As CO Butzin was approaching a corner, an oncoming sled came around the corner in his lane at a high rate of speed. CO Butzin was able to maneuver out of the way of the oncoming snowmobile. When stopped, the operator claimed she was unfamiliar with the snowmobile and did not have full control. A citation was issued for careless operation.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol in Garden Township when he encountered what he thought to be a vehicle shining a field. A traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle for other motor vehicle violations. When contacted, it was found that a headlight was hanging off the vehicle shining directly out to the passenger side of the vehicle flickering on and off. It was discovered that the occupants were in possession of a spotlight and an uncased .22 caliber firearm. A citation was issued for possessing an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle.
- **CO Robert Freeborn, along with COs Mark Zitnik, Chris Lynch, Steve Butzin,** the Alger County Sheriff's Department, and USFS participated in a group snowmobile patrol targeting operating while under the influence (OWI) and careless operation. COs Freeborn and Lynch worked the east side of the county and issued five tickets for careless operation. All snowmobilers issued citations failed to stop at a stop sign at a busy trail intersection at speeds 40 mph plus. Several hours later COs Freeborn and Zitnik worked a stop sign after dark targeting OWIs. The COs observed a group of snowmobiles fail to stop at a road stop sign. After an enforcement stop, it was determined that it was the same group of snowmobilers that received a citation for failing to stop for COs Freeborn and Lynch earlier that day. The subject received a second citation for the careless operation.
- **CO Michael Evink** participated in a one-day jury trial in reference to an individual who claimed he was a CO to receive a COVID vaccine. The original incident occurred shortly after the initial vaccines were released and only qualifying individuals were allowed to receive the vaccine. CO Evink received a phone call from local hospital staff to inquire whether the suspect was a CO. CO Evink verified that the individual was not, nor had ever been a CO. During the investigation, a law enforcement type badge was recovered from the suspect's residence. The individual claimed he had the badge made due to his role as a volunteer with the conservation district. Further investigation confirmed that the local conservation district did not provide any staff members with badges. At the conclusion of the trial, the jury took less than 15 minutes to find the suspect guilty of impersonation of a peace officer. The subject will be sentenced at a later date.

DISTRICT 2 – 2-6-2022 – 2-19-2022

- **CO Brandon Maki** was in the Paradise area when a snowmobile went through a stop sign at a high rate of speed. CO Maki caught up to the snowmobile and made a stop, then asked the rider if he saw the stop sign. He stated he did but, "There are so many of them." The rider admitted fault and was issued a citation for careless operation.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Marissa Hassevoort** gave a presentation to a group of Boy Scouts involved in the Truth in Nature Program. The COs discussed the job of a conservation officer as well as showed the group a wide variety of furs from Michigan. CO VanOosten also discussed trapping and the associated regulations.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Marissa Hassevoort** assisted on a two-vehicle personal injury accident in Mackinac County. The COs assisted with traffic in what was later determined to be a fatal accident.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and PCO Marissa Hassevoort** were on patrol of Big Manistique Lake when they encountered an ice angler with five tip-ups out. As the COs approached, the fisherman began reeling up an additional fishing pole in his hand. The COs

contacted the individual and he attempted to say that three of the tip-ups were his dad's, who was approximately 300 yards away. The only tracks in the snow were from the one fisherman. The man admitted that he was the one that set up and tended to all the tip-ups. Additionally, none of the man's tip-ups had proper identification on them. A citation was issued for fishing with more than three lines and a verbal warning was given for no name and address on his tip ups.

- **COs Justin Vinson, Cole VanOosten, Rob Freeborn, Sergeant (Sgt.) Calvin Smith, and PCOs Marissa Hassevoort and Cameron Wright**, along with Deputy Tim Maskus from the Luce County Sheriff's Office were called late at night for a report of four lost snowmobilers north of Newberry near Sleeper Lake. The out-of-state and southern Michigan snowmobilers had been riding off-trail after dark in a snowstorm, when one of the riders lost control and landed in open water on a beaver pond and two of the other snowmobiles became stuck in the chest deep snow. To make matters worse, a severe winter storm with 20 miles per hour (mph) wind gusts blowing caused the snowmobilers to become disoriented and not know how to get out of the swamp. Around 1:00 am, the riders were located and found to be well. The officers assisted the riders in getting the two snowmobiles unstuck while tending to the hypothermic wet rider. All four snowmobilers were escorted out of the swamp by the officers with one being treated for signs of hypothermia by Luce County EMS. The situation was a reminder to use good judgement when deciding to operate off trail particularly in near blizzard conditions.
- **CO Colton Gelinas** was checking an ice fisherman on an inland lake in Mackinac County when he came across a fisherman that was having good luck on perch. When asked how many perch he had, the fisherman was unsure. After counting the bucket of perch, it was determined that he had 40 perch in possession, the legal limit is 25. CO Gelinas issued a citation for overlimit of perch.
- **CO Mike Olesen** assisted the MSP and Whitefish Township EMS with a snowmobile accident north of Paradise. CO Olesen assisted at the scene of the accident and assisted with transporting EMS members in and out of the area.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** happened to be at the Alger County Sheriff's Department when one of the inmates was discovered by a deputy attempting to commit suicide by hanging himself in a jail cell. CO Zitnik and deputies got the man down and began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). After 20 minutes of working with Alger County EMS the inmate regained a pulse and was transported to UP Health System Marquette.
- **CO Andrea Dani and Sgt. Mark Zitnik** were on patrol in Alger County on H 58 near Van Meer when the COs encountered a snowmobile heading in their direction in the middle of the roadway. The snowmobiler did not move over until just passing by the patrol truck, after which the snowmobiler returned to the middle of the roadway over a blind hill. The COs turned around and initiated a traffic stop of the snowmobiler. The operator was issued a citation for careless operation of a snowmobile.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink** assisted Ohio game wardens in an illegal deer investigation involving a local subject. The COs located the subject and after an interview, it was determined the suspect had shot a deer in Ohio this past fall without a license. A report will be completed and turned over to the Ohio game wardens for their investigation.
- While on snowmobile patrol, **COs Robert Freeborn, Michael Evink,** and Schoolcraft County deputies responded to a snowmobile personal injury accident that was near their location. After arriving on scene, it was determined that the snowmobile lost control and hit a pine tree at approximately 60 mph. The officers kept the subject comfortable while waiting for EMS to arrive on the scene. The subject was removed and transported to a local hospital where he was then eventually transferred to another hospital downstate. The subject sustained serious injuries including broken ribs, a ruptured spleen, and a tear in his aorta. The subject is expected to make a full recovery.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** was sitting at a busy trail crossing where it crosses a plowed county road. After sitting for only a few minutes, CO Freeborn observed several snowmobiles fail to stop at the stop sign. Citations were issued for the careless operation of a snowmobile. Shortly after, another snowmobile failed to stop at the stop sign. A citation was also issued for the careless operation of a snowmobile.
- **CO Michael Evink** was requested to respond to a family of five who were walking out from a newly purchased camp. The family was hoping to spend the night at their new property but were not able to get a fire started and their ORV was stuck in the deep snow. After walking a mile plus through waist deep snow, the family was very cold and tired. Once on scene, CO Evink used his snowmobile to locate the family, still a mile plus from their vehicle. CO Evink made sure everyone was doing well. CO Evink transported the coldest child back to the staging area and the family truck. Sault Tribe officers were now on scene with two additional snowmobiles and an MSP trooper. The officers headed back in and were able to safely transport the next three individuals to their truck. Local fire rescue arrived with a tracked side-by-side and assisted with recovering the ORV. All in all, five family members were safely transported to their vehicle and the ORV was recovered to prevent further chance of endangerment.

DISTRICT 2 – 2-20-2022- 3-5-2022

- **COs Steve Butzin and Robert Freeborn** were on snowmobile patrol when they encountered several violations of individuals operating snowmobiles without trail permits and registrations. Additionally, while checking inland lakes, one individual was found to be fishing with several unattended lines. One of the tip-up flags was up when the COs discovered it. Further

investigation revealed that the individual, who the tip-up belonged to, was fishing from his cabin, and had left for an extended period. In all, several citations were issued, and a warrant is being sought for fishing with unattended lines.

- **COs Chris Lynch, Cole VanOosten, and PCO Marissa Hassevoort** conducted a patrol on Little Bay de Noc. Several anglers were checked and glad to see the COs out patrolling despite the poor fishing activity. The COs encountered several violations including lines not in immediate control, fail to exhibit fishing license, no/name address on tip-ups, fail to license an off-road vehicle (ORV), and operating a snowmobile without a helmet. One citation was issued, and several verbal warnings were issued.
- **CO Andrea Dani** investigated a snowmobile accident reported to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) dispatch four days after the crash. The operator stated he collided into a bank of snow and was ejected from the machine. There was minimal damage to the snowmobile, but the operator was later hospitalized for an injury to his vertebrae. Speed is believed to be a factor.
- **CO Andrea Dani** responded to a call of a rollover accident on M-67 near Trenary where injuries were unknown at the time of dispatch. CO Dani located the vehicle on its top with both occupants and their dog outside the vehicle. CO Dani checked the occupants for injuries, with the passenger complaining of minor neck pain. CO Dani placed the passenger in her patrol truck to keep her out of the freezing rain while awaiting EMS. CO Dani then investigated the scene while awaiting other units. Witnesses stated the vehicle fish-tailed on the icy road, over-corrected, lost control, crossed into the opposing lane of traffic, hit the snowbank, and subsequently overturned. The registration on the vehicle came back to a different vehicle owned by the same person. CO Dani turned the information over to the Alger County Sheriff's Department upon their arrival, who cited the driver for the improper plate and issued a warning for operating too fast for conditions.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** was patrolling in his truck on Buckhorn Road when he observed a snowmobile operating next to him on the unplowed portion of the road. The snowmobiler started riding towards the road and suddenly jumped the five-foot-tall bank onto Buckhorn Road causing the CO to slam on his brakes to avoid hitting the operator and his snowmobile. A traffic stop was made, and the rider explained to the CO he did not look before jumping onto the road. The rider was issued a citation for careless operation.
- **COs Rob Freeborn and Mark Zitnik** patrolled Grand Marais for snowmobile activity. The COs have been receiving many complaints of snowmobiles operating carelessly, being excessively noisy, and disrespectful towards private property owners. The COs checked over 200 snowmobiles on that Sunday and received many positive remarks from the locals for keeping the snowmobilers legal within the city limits.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** was advised by the local court that a subject that he had charged for shooting an antlered deer was sentenced recently and was ordered to pay \$5,000 and lost his hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses for three years.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** was first on the scene regarding an aircraft that lost power and had to perform an emergency landing on Indian Lake. Thanks to the pilot's skills, he landed the aircraft without anyone suffering any injuries. A police report was completed as well as notifying the Federal Aviation Administration. The aircraft was removed from the lake without incident.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** worked a busy snowmobile trail crossing on a plowed county road over several days. CO Freeborn observed several snowmobiles fail to stop for the stop sign. A total of five citations were issued and several warnings. All snowmobilers who were issued citations stated they did not see the stop sign and were shocked when CO Freeborn showed them the sign they failed to see. This is a good reminder to all riders that if you are not familiar with a trail, the rider needs to use caution and don't let excess speed lead to an accident.
- **COs Justin Vinson and PCO Cameron Wright** received a call from Chippewa County Central Dispatch of a Life 360 alert along Trail 9 in northern Luce County. The two COs responded to the area which is only accessible by snowmobile. After a two hour search of the area, the COs were unable to locate the man. With help from the DNR dispatch, the COs were able to obtain a phone number for individual's family. The family was able to locate the man via the Life 360 app near Paradise, nearly 60 miles from where the COs were sent to search. It was concluded that the app sent a false alert and that the man was fine.
- **COs Justin Vinson, Cole VanOosten and PCO Marissa Hassevoort** responded to a call for assistance from the Chippewa County Sheriff's Department to aid in locating a lost angler who had become disoriented in a snowstorm on Lake Superior. The COs and members of Chippewa County Sheriff's Department searched for several hours to no avail. A United States Coast Guard (USCG) helicopter was eventually called and quickly located the subject four and a half miles down the coast. The COs drove their snowmobiles to the location and found the angler in good health. The subject was evaluated by EMS and turned over to his friends and family.
- **PCO Marissa Hassevoort and CO Cole VanOosten** were on patrol checking ice anglers. The COs observed an individual who appeared to have nine tip-ups set out around his ice shack. Contact was made with the subject, he admitted he was fishing too many lines and that he had gotten away with it more times than not. The subject also admitted he doesn't always violate, but at the time he was just trying to find where the fish were at. A citation was issued for fish too many lines.
- **COs Cole VanOosten and PCO Marissa Hassevoort** and presented to a group of high schoolers interested in a career of natural resources at Lake Superior State University. The COs informed the class of a conservation officer's job responsibility and the process of becoming a conservation officer.

DISTRICT 2 - 3/6/2022 – 3/19/2022

- **COs Chris Lynch, Steve Butzin, Rob Freeborn, and Mike Evink** conducted a group night patrol on Little Bay de Noc. During the patrol, numerous anglers were contacted during the closing weekend for walleye season. Violations encountered included unattended lines, fish without license, no/name address on tip-ups, and fail to exhibit fishing license. Seven citations and 12 warnings were issued for the violations.
- **CO Steve Butzin** successfully served an arrest warrant without incident on a subject who illegally shot a deer without a license.
- **COs Rob Freeborn, Steve Butzin and PCO Todd Bunce** interviewed an individual regarding a deer license that was believed to have been purchased after taking a deer in Delta County. The individual claimed to have harvested his deer on Thanksgiving Day, but records showed his license was purchased the following day. After a brief interview, the individual admitted to hunting without a license for a two-day span leading up to his kill and then purchasing his license after killing his deer. A report has been submitted to the local prosecutor.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** noticed numerous deer being hit on H 58 close to a nearby residence that was supplemental feeding. After a brief investigation, it was found that the deer were crossing the county road to eat at the home, but when the deer would leave the residence, they would climb a steep hill and jump a guard rail onto the road. Ultimately this was causing the deer to get struck by passing vehicles. CO Zitnik spoke with the couple at the home and asked them to stop feeding the deer. The CO appreciated their efforts but felt they were doing more harm than good. The couple understood and informed the CO they would stop feeding.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** received a complaint from the Marquette DNR Office that a call was received regarding someone feeding deer right next to the road on Curtis Drive in AuTrain. The complainant was concerned for the safety of the deer because every morning when he went to work deer were on the road and jumping in every direction. The CO responded to the area and observed deer feed two feet off the road. CO Zitnik spoke with the owner of the home and informed him that it's appreciated they are feeding the deer, but they should not be doing so right next to the road. The homeowner appreciated the warning and will find a better place to feed the deer.
- **COs Justin Vinson, and PCO Cameron Wright** were patrolling north of Newberry when they witnessed two snowmobilers fail to stop at a stop sign. The intersection had an oncoming vehicle that was only 150 feet away when the snowmobilers carelessly crossed. A stop was made, and it was found that one of the riders was operating on a revoked operator's license. Citations were issued for careless operation of a snowmobile and operating a snowmobile while revoked.
- **COs Cole VanOosten and PCO Marissa Hassevoort** were first on scene of a personal injury accident in Luce County involving five vehicles. The COs provided first aid on scene to a severely injured man who had sustained lacerations to his head and face and numerous broken bones. The man who caused the accident was lodged by the Michigan State Police (MSP) for reckless driving causing serious injury and suspected operating while intoxicated (OWI).
- **COs Brandon Maki and Sgt. Calvin Smith** followed up on the remains of an ice shack that was found on Munuscong Bay. CO Maki came across the remains during a patrol on the bay and was able to locate a partial last name on the ice shack. An interview was conducted, and it was reported by the owner the shack had caught on fire from the heater. CO Maki explained to the individual that he was still responsible to clean up the remains or he could face possible fines.

DISTRICT 2 – 3-20-2022 - 4-4-2022

- **CO Chris Lynch** checked a water trapper who was placing sets out for the first time. The ambitious trapper had several good questions about laws and how to make sets. CO Lynch went over various trapping laws and explained various style sets and their applications for otter and beaver for the new trapper. The trapper was very appreciative of the information.
- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint of dogs chasing deer in Maple Ridge Township. After following up on the complaint it was found that an individual, for over a month, had been allowing his two dogs run on to the neighbor's property and chase deer off the property almost every day. The neighbor had the dogs on camera numerous days, often multiple times per day. He requested the neighbor keep the dogs home, but the request was ignored. When CO Butzin contacted the dog's owner, he said they're hunting dogs that's what they do. A report has been submitted with the Delta County Prosecutors Office.
- **CO Andrea Dani** received a complaint of a gate on state land easement near the Ford River. CO Dani located the gate and confirmed with GIS mapping that it was not on state property nor blocking the state easement. CO Dani notified the complainant, advising that the cell phone hunting application he used was off just enough to make the gated road appear to be the state easement. CO Dani then informed the complainant of Delta County's GIS mapping system on CUPPAD Fetch GIS.
- **COs Andrea Dani, Mark Zitnik and PCO Todd Bunce** participated in the Munising Baptist School Wildlife Game Dinner's "Ask the DNR" presentation. Approximately 150 members of the community asked the COs questions throughout the night including fish/game regulations, to the steps necessary to become a Conservation Officer. The night which featured wild game dishes, trophy taxidermy mounts and a multitude of door prizes also had many youth in attendance - many of which have participated in the DNR's Youth Mentored Hunt or Hunter's Safety programs offered throughout the year.

- **CO Mark Zitnik and PCO Todd Bunce** patrolled a stretch of Munising Bay from Washington Creek to Sand Point on a busy day of ice fishing. While the fishing was slow, many fishermen were persistent in their search of coho, perch and smelt. CO's Zitnik and Bunce contacted over 3-dozen fisherman over this 3-mile stretch of frozen lake, no citations were issued.
- **CO Mark Zitnik and PCO Todd Bunce** were on ice fishing patrol of Munising Bay where they encountered an individual fishing near the Munising Public High School. Using an ORV and a pop-up shack, the officers observed his ORV lacked the necessary ORV license. The individual presented his unaffixed ORV license when requested and explained he had recently purchased the license but had forgotten to place it on his machine. The individual received a verbal warning for failing to display his ORV license.
- **CO Michael Evink and PCO Jackson Kelly** responded to a dirt bike personal injury accident (PI). The COs were first on scene and upon arriving they observed the operator of the dirt bike sitting on the side of the road with two people holding blankets over her. EMS personnel arrived shortly after. The operator and witnesses stated that she fell of the dirt bike while trying to do a wheelie on the road. The operator stated that she felt like she broke her arm and had a laceration on her forehead because she was not wearing a helmet at the time of the accident. EMS rendered aid to the operator and the COs are investigating the accident.
- **CO Michael Evink and PCO Jackson Kelly** were dispatched to assist MSP with a man that was presumed to be on LSD. Upon arrival, the man came out of the garage to meet with law enforcement. It appeared the man was on some sort of drug, however he would not admit to it. CO Kelly spoke to the man about his hallucinations while MSP looked for help for the man. The man stated that his friend dropped him off at the house and that he was locked out. He also stated that the ninjas had left when law enforcement arrived and that they were part of a cult and had stuffed dead animals in the trees including his two dogs. Eventually MSP found a family friend whose house he could stay at after determining that he was not dangerous and didn't need medical attention.
- **COs Todd Sumbera and Brandon Maki** conducted a fisheries patrol on Drummond Island when they contacted an individual ice fishing with 14 Lake Herring sitting outside of his ice shanty. The individual stated, "I am one away from filling my limit". CO Sumbera asked him if he was sure the limit was 15, after a brief pause the individual stated that he forgot the limit was 12. COs Sumbera and Maki then explained that the legal possession limit for Lake Herring is 10. Four Lake Herring were seized, and a citation was issued for the overlimit.
- **CO Brandon Maki** pulled into Conley's Point parking lot to check on fishing activity, when he observed a snowmobile being operated with an expired registration. CO Maki began conversing with the man operating the snowmobile and his passenger. He advised them that the snowmobile registration was expired. The operator stated he was unaware that it had to be registered just to take it fishing. CO Maki asked how the fishing was and they said it was alright. When asked if they had any fish, they advised they had a two-man limit of 50 perch. CO Maki asked if he could look at the fish, and they handed a 5-gallon bucket filled with perch. CO Maki and the two men counted out 51 perch. CO Maki cited one man for an over limit of perch and gave a verbal warning for failing to register his snowmobile. CO Maki ran into the operator of the snowmobile a few hours later and the snowmobile had already been registered.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was the first law enforcement officer on scene of an accident involving two Semi-Tractors in Chippewa County. CO Olesen checked the wellbeing of both operators and assisted with traffic control. One of the Semi-Tractor operators was cited for operating a vehicle too fast for conditions by a Michigan State Police Motor Carrier Officer.
- **CO Justin Vinson** received a complaint that an eagle and fox were caught in traps near Engadine, in Mackinac County. CO Vinson responded to the scene and upon his arrival Wildlife Division staff had already released the eagle which was trapped in a cable restraint (snare). CO Vinson observed several snares, a trail camera, and a trapped fox near a deer carcass. CO Vinson assisted Wildlife staff with the release of the live fox then seized the equipment. CO Vinson was able to locate and interview the suspect who believed fox and snaring season was open. He informed the suspect that the use of cable restraints and fox season ended March 1st and that the eagle had been in his snare for 4 days. Total violations found included trapping fox outside of the open season, using cable restraints outside of the open season, using unlawful cable restraints, failing to check traps every 48 hours and protected species unlawful acts. Charges are being sought through the Mackinac County Prosecutor's Office.
- **COs Cole Vanoosten, Brandon Maki, Todd Sumbera, Sgt. Calvin Smith** and Park employees assisted the States Attorney General's Office with the reconstruction of a snowmobile accident that had occurred in Chippewa County. The COs closed the portion of the trail where the accident had taken place and assisted at the scene.

DISTRICT 2 – 4-5-2022 - 4-18-2022

- **COs Chris Lynch, Steve Butzin, Rob Freeborn, Mike Evink, PCO's Todd Bunce, and Jackson Kelly** successfully executed a search warrant without incident. The search warrant was to seize and search a suspect's truck believed to be containing evidence of a deer poaching that happened last deer season. A search of the truck turned up potential evidence that will be used in court at a later date. The investigation is ongoing.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was doing follow up from this past deer season when he encountered several wildlife violations. The investigation was into two individuals who loaned and borrowed a single whitetail buck license from one another. Further

investigation found that one individual shot a 6-point whitetail buck without a license. A report has been submitted to the 94th District Court of Delta County.

- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol in Masonville Township, Delta County looking for unlawful fishing activity during the walleye closure when he had a pick-up truck pull out in front of him traveling at a slow rate of speed. CO Butzin followed the pick-up for several miles, and it was apparent that the operator could not safely keep the vehicle within the lane of travel as it was swerving from the shoulder to other lane several times. A traffic stop was conducted, and CO Chris Lynch arrived on scene shortly after to assist with the investigation. The investigation uncovered that the driver was highly intoxicated. A PBT test of the individual showed he was operating a motor vehicle with a 0.217% BAC. This individual was subsequently arrested and lodged at the Delta County Jail for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated 3rd offense, operating a motor vehicle on a restricted license in violation of restrictions, and operating a motor vehicle without securities.
- While on patrol at the Anna River Mouth in Munising Bay, **CO Andrea Dani** observed an angler near the river mouth with a large splake on the ice. CO Dani checked the rest of the angler's fish and discovered among his catch a splake that was obviously under the 15" minimum size limit. A measurement of the splake indicated the fish was approximately 12.5" long. The angler was issued a citation for possession of an under-sized splake, which was seized.
- **CO Andrea Dani** was on patrol in Schoolcraft County near the Mackinaw County line when she observed a vehicle make a U-turn on US-2 and stop near an injured deer in the roadway. CO Dani stopped and made sure the occupants were not injured, then removed the deer which had succumbed to its injuries, from the roadway. CO Dani took the crash report and issued the operator a highway kill possession permit for the deer.
- **CO Andrea Dani** attended the Women in Law Enforcement Conference presented in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The officers, along with approximately 400 other sworn and civilian attendees from across the state and other states, learned from stories of both women and men in leadership positions in law enforcement. Presentations from Capt. Wende Wakeman of the Texas Rangers, Undersheriff Valerie Weiss of Ottawa County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Michelle LaJoye-Young of Kent County Sheriff's Department, and several others shared their stories of the difficulties they experienced in law enforcement and how they were able to become leaders for their teams, eventually working their way through the ranks in a male-dominated field. The COs were honored to experience Officer Ann Marie Carrizales's lessons of the importance of never giving up as well as her struggle with PTSD after being shot on a traffic stop. With one round to the face and a second round to the chest, Carrizales was still able to pursue the suspects in a high-speed chase for several miles. Attendees learned about maintaining mental and physical health, the importance of male mentors for females and female mentors for males, dealing with sexual harassment and sexism in the workplace, as well as advanced techniques in cold case sexual assault investigations.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** responded to a neighborhood in Christmas that was having trouble with a hungry bear getting into the homeowner's garbage cans. CO Zitnik spoke with each homeowner and informed them they need to keep their garbage and bird feeders secure for several weeks in order for the bear to stop visiting the homes for an easy meal. The citizens in the area were happy the CO stopped and spoke with him, they will keep their items in a secure location in hopes the bear will not return.
- **CO Michael Evink and PCO Jackson Kelly** received a RAP complaint about some fishermen on Indian lake who were keeping over their limit of fish. The CO's responded to area where they saw two fishermen catching several fish. After the fisherman were done fishing, they both rode back on a four-wheeler designed for one person. The CO's contacted the two men and requested their fishing licenses and to check their fish. One of the fishermen refused until they told him about the riding double on a four-wheeler violation. The other fisherman was tribal member, a tribal officer arrived on scene to speak with him regarding his tribal regulations. At the conclusion of the contact a citation was issued for riding double on a four-wheeler designed for one person.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Todd Bunce** were on ice fishing patrol in Schoolcraft County when they spotted an individual with an overlimit of bluegill. As the officers approached the fisherman, the individual began to throw fish back into the holes but not before the officers were able to visually count more than the fisherman's limit of 25. A citation was issued for the overlimit, and the fisherman was educated on the differences between possession and catch-and-release fishing. Upon checking a second fisherman fishing nearby, another overlimit was found and a citation was issued as well for the overlimit of Blue Gill.
- While on routine patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Todd Bunce** noticed a vehicle in front of them with an expired license plate. After checking the expiration through dispatch, a traffic stop was made on the vehicle. The operator stated it has been expired since Christmas and hadn't got around to renewing it yet. A citation was issued for the expired plate. Later that same day, the CO's located a second expired plate on a motor vehicle and a citation was issued.
- While on patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Todd Bunce** observed a pickup truck pull out in front of them with 3 occupants, all of which were unbuckled including a child. A citation was issued for failing to wear safety belts.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Todd Bunce** were called to a dumping/litter complaint in western Mackinac County. The large pile of trash had recently been dumped and contained personal identifying information of multiple subjects. Interviews are in progress to identify the responsible person.
- **CO Brandon Maki** checked multiple streams with steelhead fishermen and answered several questions about stream regulations. CO Maki also checked many streams for smelt activity however, no activity yet and no violations were observed.

- **CO Justin Vinson** attended Ask the DNR TV show that aired in Marquette at Northern Michigan University. CO Vinson answered several questions that were called in by viewers of the show.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** attended a coffee and conversation meeting led by the DNR Fisheries division. CO VanOosten fielded several questions from members of the public regarding several recent regulation changes.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** conducted several fisheries patrol of the Two-hearted River from snowmobile. CO VanOosten contacted several successful anglers who were very pleased with the numbers of steelhead being caught.
- **CO Mike Olesen** responded to a complaint of litter being dumped on state land in Mackinac County. CO Olesen arrived at the dump site to find that all the trash had been cleaned up. The investigation into who deposited of the trash continues.

Marketing & Outreach Division – Jon Spieles, Statewide Interpretive Manager

- “Nature at School” virtual school programs have wrapped up for the winter season as staff transition to on-site field trips. Reservations are on pace to get us back to 2019 school field trip levels.
- Weekend programming is ongoing at 10 visitor centers around the state including a variety of Outdoor Skills Academy courses. OSA courses have included ice fishing, mushroom hunting, steelhead fishing and others.
- Hartwick Pines pulled off a well-attended Maple Syrup Festival with demonstrations and workshops to help participants get going in their own backyard.
- Work is ongoing to recruit and hire more than 60 seasonal interpreters that will staff nine visitor centers, 45 State Parks and the Upper Peninsula Pocket Park this summer. Positions in seasonal interpretation and visitor services remain open statewide.
- Marketing and Outreach filled the Interpretive Program Specialist position recently. Holly Vaughn will manage the State Park Explorer Program statewide and coordinate marketing and training programs for all seasonal interpreters.

Parks & Recreation Division-Eastern UP Trails: Ron Yesney-UP Trails Coordinator

Rail-Trail Projects

- Putting together a project list for 2022.
- Researching ownership on key RR grades.

Snowmobile Trail Updates

- A busy winter with average to above average snowmobile traffic.
- Alger SORVA had several equipment breakdowns, and their trails were not consistently groomed.
- The Straits Area Snowmobile Club has been reorganized. It is being run out of Trout Lake by some new volunteers. They will have two new groomers.
- Segments of Trail 2 were closed due to water and unsafe conditions.
- Millecoquins River Bridge is being planned for bidding out this summer for construction.
- H-58/Miners Bridge re-route is being planned. Engineering to begin soon.
- Grand Marais snowmobile club has had frustrating year with breakdowns.

ORV Trail Updates

- Grant sponsors are starting to get their executed 2022 maintenance grants.
- Finishing up a few projects for the year.
- The USFS has approved a few new routes. We will work toward formal designation.

Equestrian Trail Projects

- Headquarters Lake Trail signs have been received and ready to put up.
- Headquarters Lake re-route to be worked on this summer.

Pathway Projects

- Paradise Pathway Signs have been received and ready to be put up.
- Peek A Boo hill pathway project is under review. This is in Cedarville. Grant money has been applied for.

General

- Statewide trails plan is complete. Copies available upon request.
- An offer has been accepted for the EUP Trails Specialist. New person should start soon.