



## Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

**Date of Production: August 2022**

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

### *Follow-Up from April 2022 EUPCAC Meeting*

Excerpt from the April 27, 2022 EUPCAC Meeting Minutes:

Closing Comments from the Council

1. Vice Chair Gorniak reiterated the WMAC meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> in Marquette will be their last official meeting after which they will be forwarding all of their resolutions to the DNR and legislature. He encouraged anyone who has additional input or comments to attend this meeting. Mr. Cox asked if any of the state senators have taken a stance on a bill at the federal level. **Mr. Lindblom from Sen. Peters office (attending virtually) indicated he would find out more information from Sen. Peters on his stance and report back to the Council.**

Response received:

From: Lindblom, Doug (Peters) <[Doug.Lindblom@peters.senate.gov](mailto:Doug.Lindblom@peters.senate.gov)>  
Sent: Thursday, July 7, 2022 12:18 PM  
To: Dahlstrom, Kristi (DNR)

When it comes to H.R. 7766: This is not a bill the Senator would support. There is a broader debate going on when it comes to Wolf populations across the United States and our duty to protect them. As the Michigan DNR continues working through changes to Michigan's Wolf Management Plan, we will review the updates and support the DNR's state-level directives. As always, our office is happy to assist in situations where predators are interacting with humans or impacting industry.

Let me know if you have any other questions about this or other legislation. Thanks!

**Doug Lindblom**

Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator  
Office of U.S. Senator Gary C. Peters  
Cell: (906) 369-3984

### *August UP Field Deputy Update – Stacy Haughey*

July 5, 2022      Media contacts: [Brian Roell](mailto:Brian.Roell@dnr.state.mi.us), 906-228-6561 or [Cody Norton](mailto:Cody.Norton@dnr.state.mi.us), 906-202-3023

#### **Comment on Michigan's draft 2022 wolf management plan by Aug. 4**

Those interested in sharing feedback about the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' newest draft of the state's wolf management plan are invited to complete an [online questionnaire](#), available through Aug. 4. Michigan's wolf management plan – created in 2008 and updated in 2015 – is being updated this year, using public input to identify prominent issues, assess public attitudes and review the biological and social science surrounding wolves.

The [draft 2022 plan](#) has four principal goals:

- Maintain a viable wolf population.
- Facilitate wolf-related benefits.
- Minimize wolf-related conflicts.
- Conduct science-based and socially responsible management of wolves.

Michigan's wolf management plan has guided oversight of this iconic species in the state for the last 13 years. The 2022 update will include recent scientific literature, input from the Wolf Management Advisory Council and results of a new public survey about wolves in Michigan.

"Now that we have written a draft of the updated 2022 wolf management plan, it's important that we gather feedback from the public to ensure the changes we're proposing will support the long-term presence of a viable wolf population in Michigan, while addressing the needs of those with an interest in the health and viability of the state's wolf population," said Cody Norton, DNR large carnivore specialist.

Michigan's gray wolf population was almost eliminated by the mid-1970s. Today, Michigan has a wolf population close to 700 in the Upper Peninsula. Gray wolves in Michigan were again removed from the federal endangered species list in early 2021, but a federal court decision in February 2022 returned them to federal protections.

**The online questionnaire will accept comments through Aug. 4.** For more information about wolves in Michigan, visit [Michigan.gov/Wolves](https://Michigan.gov/Wolves).

## *DNR Pocket Park - UP State Fair in Escanaba August 15 through August 21, 2022*



Soon the DNR Pocket Park will be swirling with thousands of parents and children wanting to learn how to catch a fish or hit the bullseye with a bow or pellet gun. We are looking forward to seeing you all again because we can't do it without you! Volunteers like you make the park one of the top destinations to visit during the UP State Fair each year. **We hope we can count on you to volunteer this year!**

Please help us NOW by considering a few things below.

1. Look at your calendar and please consider volunteering a bit of time during the week of August 15-21. Your family member(s), friends, and coworkers (and mature younger kids too!) are also more than welcome to volunteer. Make it a fun group effort! Remember, there are concerts and other events scheduled at the fair...coordinate your shift with those you want to see to get in for free! (<https://www.upstatefair.net/entertainment/grandstand-events/>)
2. If you are available, send us an email or call to let us know you can volunteer.
3. There are so many slots to fill! If you have a favorite activity and/or slot you'd like, tell us and we will slot you in. No prior experience is necessary—we will train you!
4. Call, text, or email Jo Ann Alexander ([alexanderj7@michigan.gov](mailto:alexanderj7@michigan.gov) / 906-786-2351, Ext. 0 -Escanaba) or Kristi Dahlstrom ([dahlstromk@michigan.gov](mailto:dahlstromk@michigan.gov) / 906-226-1331-Marquette) for volunteer slots.



**THANK YOU! We look forward to seeing you in August!**

### **Pocket Park Fair Week Open/Volunteer Shift Hours**

- Monday, August 15 - 5:00pm-8:00pm
- Tuesday, August 16 - 11:30am-3:30pm & 3:30-7:00pm
- Wednesday, August 17 - 11:30am-3:30pm & 3:30-7:00pm
- Thursday, August 18 - 11:30am-3:30pm & 3:30-7:00pm
- Friday, August 19 - 11:30am-3:30pm & 3:30-7:00pm
- Saturday, August 20 - 11:30am-3:30pm & 3:30-7:00pm
- Sunday, August 21 - 12:00pm-3:00pm



### **Activities/Stations**

- Fishing Pond (7 per shift per day)
- Archery Range (4 per shift per day)
- Pellet Gun Range (4 per shift per day)
- Fire Tower (1-2 per shift per day)
- Greeters (2 per shift per day)
- NEW THIS YEAR: Smokey Bounce House! (2 per shift per day)
- Hospitality Host (Cook and serve volunteer food items/volunteer assistant – 1 per shift per day)
- Rounder (Make rounds around park, delivering water and tending to volunteer needs, etc. – 1 per shift per day)
- Fish Repair Shack Helper (To repair fishing/archery equipment Wednesday-Saturday – 1 per shift per day)

---

**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](http://www.michigan.gov/DNRMeetings) and click on the appropriate meeting and/or agenda for instructions.

August 4	Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Council, 6pm, Munising Township Hall, Wetmore
August 6	State Forest Public Comment Period –Crystal Falls Unit (call 906-875-5025)
August 11	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing (call 517-599-1067)
August 15	State Forest Public Comment Period – Sault Ste. Marie Unit (call 906-477-6048, x2040)
August 20	State Forest Public Comment Period –Gwinn Unit (call 906-346-9201, x103)
August 23	State Forest Public Comment Period –Shingleton Unit (call 906-452-6227, x240)
August 23	Wildlife's UP Sportsperson Coalition, Crystal Falls–TBD, 6pm Central
August 25	Wildlife's UP Sportsperson Coalition, Shingleton–TBD
August 30	State Forest Compartment Review –Escanaba Unit (call 906-786-2354, x142)
August 31	Wildlife's UP Sportsperson Coalition, Escanaba–Bay College, 6pm
September 5	State Forest Public Comment Period –Newberry Unit (call 906-293-3293, x4740)
September 6	Wildlife's UP Sportsperson Coalition, DNR Marquette, 6pm
September 8	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Detroit (call 517-599-1067)
September 27	State Forest Compartment Review – Crystal Falls Unit (call 906-875-5025)
September 27	Wildlife's UP Sportsperson Coalition, Sault Ste, Marie–TBD, 2pm
October 4	State Forest Compartment Review –Sault Ste. Marie Unit (call 906-477-6048, x2040)
October 13	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, <b>Marquette</b> (call 517-599-1067)

---

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

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

August 5	Michigan Iron Industry Museum – Iron Ore Heritage Bike Tour
August 12	Michigan Iron Industry Museum – Iron Ore Heritage Bike Tour

August 13 Fayette Historic Townsite – Fayette Heritage Days

**August 15–21 DNR Pocket Park / UP State Fair Week – See Kristi to Volunteer! Be A Mentor, Make Memories**

Sep 9–10 Bewabic State Park – Harvest Festival

Sep 10–12 Baraga State Park – Harvest Festival

Sep 10 Van Riper State Park – Harvest Festival

Sep 16–17 Fayette Historic State Park – A Paranormal Event

Sep 17 Van Riper State Park – Harvest Festival

Sep 23–24 Wells State Park – Spooktacular

Sep 24 Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Harvest Festival

Sep 24 Brimley State Park – Harvest Festival

## *Other Good Information to Know*

### **Recent DNR Press Releases**

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

- MDARD asks Michiganders to be on the lookout for spotted lanternfly, an invasive species threatening agriculture, natural resources (7/26/22)
- Have we got a treat(ment) for you! NotMISpecies webinars feature tips for tackling invasive species on land, water and places in between (7/22/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: Traveling the North Country (7/22/22)
- Fire danger is elevated this week, so be careful how you work and play outdoors (7/21/22)
- Fish survey nets to be placed along St. Marys River in August (7/20/22)
- Firefighters contain 46–acre fire near Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (7/19/22)
- Whitmer approves \$45.6 million in Natural Resources Trust Fund grants (7/19/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: Caring for Michigan’s cultural resources (7/15/22)
- 2022 deer hunting access permit application period July 15 – Aug. 15 (7/15/22)
- 2023 budget has \$34 million for fish hatchery upgrades, new Great Lakes research vessel (7/13/22)
- Army National Guard training program to benefit Horseshoe Lake boating access site in Marquette County (7/12/22)
- DNR News: Rep the Kirtland's warbler, CO academy startup, NRC meets in Lansing (7/12/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: The deepest egg hunt in the Great Lakes (7/7/22)
- State park volunteering, river cleanup, muskie survey, more (7/6/22)
- Natural Resources Commission meets July 14 in Lansing; agenda posted online (7/6/22)
- Firefighters to contain 200–acre wildfire in Schoolcraft County (7/5/22)
- Comment on Michigan’s draft 2022 wolf management plan by Aug. 4 (7/5/22)

---

### **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  
Recreation Passport Grant  
Aquatic Habitat Grant  
Michigan Invasive Species Grant  
Wildlife Habitat Grant  
U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant

Merrie Carlock, 517–284–5931, [carlockm@michigan.gov](mailto:carlockm@michigan.gov)  
Merrie Carlock, 517–284–5931, [carlockm@michigan.gov](mailto:carlockm@michigan.gov)  
Kelly Parker, 517–284–5957, [parkerk4@michigan.gov](mailto:parkerk4@michigan.gov)  
Kammy Frayre, 517–284–5970, [frayrek1@michigan.gov](mailto:frayrek1@michigan.gov)  
Kelly Parker, 517–284–5957, [parkerk4@michigan.gov](mailto:parkerk4@michigan.gov)  
Bill Scullon, 906–563–9247, [scullonh@michigan.gov](mailto:scullonh@michigan.gov)

## *Western UPCAC Update*

The **Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council** met on July 20<sup>th</sup> in person at Michigan Tech University in Houghton. The following agenda items were discussed:

- Division Updates
- UP CWD Taskforce Meeting Update
- DNR Response to Joint UPCAC Resolution regarding Enhance Walleye Fisheries in Proposed Budget
- Western UP Invasive Species Update from MTU's KISMA (Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area) by Student Representatives
- Property Rights Along Shorelines (Great Lakes vs. Inland Lakes)
- Council Feedback & Suggestions for Future Topics
- Reports from Committee Meetings: Fisheries Committee presented a resolution regarding a musky regulation proposal for the Cisco Chain of Lakes; the Council voted and approved the resolution unanimously.
- The Council is reviewing its meeting schedule for the new few months; the next meeting date will be confirmed after a survey of Council members.
- More information on both the Western and Eastern CACs can be found at [www.michigan.gov/upcac](http://www.michigan.gov/upcac).

## *July NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer*

The Natural Resources Commission met on July 14<sup>th</sup> in Lansing. The only major action was Director Dan Eichinger's approval of six land transactions. Details of those transactions can be found [in the NRC agenda](#).

### **Fisheries Committee**

Gary Whelan of the Fisheries Division continued a thorough presentation he began at last month's meeting focusing on the department's fisheries research. [Today's presentation](#) detailed the work that is done at the department's six staffed and two unstaffed fisheries research stations around the state.

Seth Herbst from Fisheries [told the committee](#) about the process the department uses to review and advance proposed changes to fisheries regulations. He also previewed proposed fisheries orders that will be before the commission in coming months.

### **Committee of the Whole, Director's Report**

Marketing and Outreach Chief Kristin Phillips told the committee about the dynamics that have led the department to printing fewer hunting and fishing digests and relying instead on digital digests. A number of factors -- paper industry supply chain issues, shipping and handling, driver shortages, etc. -- have led to an increased cost for printed digests. This year, the department plans not to print the fall turkey, waterfowl, or elk digests and will instead make those digests available online and for download. Among other advantages, the use of digital digests allows the department to incorporate regulation changes at any point in the year, rather than being tied to printing schedules. We have already printed the Fishing Digest this year, and will be printing the Hunting Digest this fall. For customers who don't have access to a computer, our Customer Service Centers will print digital-only digests on our office printers and make them available for pick up at a CSC. For future years, the department plans to review budgets and demand to determine which digest we will print.

Erik Eklund, chief of the Finance and Operations Division, [gave an overview of the DNR's Fiscal Year 2023 budget](#). The budget has been approved by the Legislature and is awaiting the governor's signature. This was an outstanding budget for the agency. Notable in this budget was more than \$94 million in general fund investment, including more than \$45 million in one-time investments. The bulk of that one-time investment is in fisheries management, to [make much-needed improvements in our fish hatcheries and replace an aging fisheries survey vessel](#).

A report on legislation affecting the department given to commissioners is listed 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](mailto: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](mailto:nrc@michigan.gov). Persons registering on or before the Friday preceding the meeting will be allowed up to five (5) minutes for their presentation. Persons registering after the Friday preceding the meeting or at the meeting will be allowed up to three (3) minutes. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the NRC Assistant.
- Look for the agendas and other Natural Resources Commission items at the Natural Resources Commission webpage ([www.michigan.gov/NRC](http://www.michigan.gov/NRC)).

### ***July 2022 Legislative Updates – Craig Brunet, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office***

**HB 4041 (H-1) – Provide 2 Week Preference of State Camp Sites for State Residents – Rep. Steven Johnson:** This legislation amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require that all state camp sites be first offered for reservation to residents of the state for at least 2 weeks. The legislation includes reservations for all campground sites, cabins, yurts, lodges and shelters.

- The bill was reported with recommendation by the House Committee on Oversight and is awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration is opposed to 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 reported with recommendation by the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and is awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

**HB 6103 – Designate Douglass Houghton Falls as a Veterans' State Park – Rep. Markkanen:** This bill would require the scenic area including the Douglass Houghton Falls to be designated a state park known as Veterans State Park. Additionally, the bill would amend exempt veterans and active-duty military that are Michigan residents from the recreation passport required for entry.

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

**HB 6113 – Provide Waiver of Hunter Safety Course for Individuals Valid Concealed Pistol License and Military Service Members – Rep. S. Johnson:** This bill would provide a waiver of the Hunter Safety Course for individuals who present a valid concealed pistol license or individuals who present proof that they were honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States.

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

**SB 563 (S-2) – Require Public Beach Safety Information on Websites – Sen. LaSata:** This bill as amended would require the Department to provide information on beach safety and anti-drowning techniques and require municipalities under certain circumstances to post on their websites.

- The bill was passed by the Senate and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration is neutral to this legislation.

**SB 1003 – Include Definition of Peace Officer in ORV Laws – Sen. VanderWall:** The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow seasonal deputies, those not certified by Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) that have limited authorities, to work specific ORV patrols, similar to marine or snowmobile deputies that are currently allowed.

- The bill was passed by the Senate and referred to the House Committee on Judiciary.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

**SB 1028 – Provide Appropriations from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund – Sen. Huizenga:** This bill contains the recommendations made by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant awards for Fiscal Year 2022. The proposed appropriation totals almost \$45.6 million in project funding from the trust fund.

- The bill was passed by the Senate and House and is currently awaiting approval by the Governor.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

**SB 1066 – Establish Copper as the State Mineral – Sen. McBroom:** This bill would establish copper as the state mineral.

- The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position of 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](http://www.legislature.mi.gov).*

## Division Updates

### **Marketing & Outreach Division – Jon Spieles, Statewide Interpretive Manager**

- **Peak Summer Programming:** DNR education staff are in the middle of another big summer at our ten visitor centers in State Parks and Fish Hatcheries across the state. Visitor Center attendance is down 5% from last year in our parks and hatcheries but we are running many more programs with full attendance at all sites.
- **Outdoor Skills and Special Events:** Education staff are preparing for Bear Hunting Workshops, the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Saginaw Bay Waterfowl Festival, Black Iron Days at Hartwick Pines and the U.P. State Fair in Escanaba and many other great events.
- **Academy of Natural Resources:** Education just completed another DNR Academy of Natural Resources at the Ralph McMullan Center in Roscommon. We welcomed 60 participating teachers again this year to natural resource education and science-based natural resource management through a week-long experience at the RAM Center in Roscommon July 11-15. ANR North will be held August 1-5 again this year at the Ford Center just South of Baraga. The program is a UP version of ANR and brings an additional cultural and mining focus to the curriculum. The program in the UP also included great partnerships with Michigan Technological University, Keweenaw Bay Tribes and the National Park Service.
- **Capital Improvements:** Jason Peterson, Jo Ann Alexander and Kristi Dahlstrom have been working hard to complete big improvements to the U.P. Pocket Park on the State Fairgrounds in Escanaba where new siding, kitchen area, carpet, porch improvements, garage door replacement, creative wall mural, all new shooting and fishing equipment and other improvements have really changed the feel of an already great venue.
- Bids are being solicited for a \$1.3 million renovation of the Bay City State Park Visitor Center. The renovations are being funded through the American Rescue Plan and will include an all-new science classroom for hands-on learning, new exhibits designed to help visitors experience Tobico Marsh and understand the values of healthy wetlands, and a redesigned entry area that will increase accessibility and customer service. Renovations are scheduled to be completed by June 2023.
- Planning is underway for renovations at the Hartwick Pines Visitor Center, Porcupine Mountains Visitor Center, the Eddy Discovery Center at Waterloo and at the Gillette Visitor Center at Hoffmaster State Park. All funded by American Rescue Plan dollars, improvements at these sites will include roofing, bathroom facilities and other infrastructure as well as new exhibits and visitor service components.



## **Finance & Operations: Michelle Zellar, Eastern UP**

- Mary Wollan, secretary of the Sault Ste. Marie office is retiring after 39 years of service. Her position is posted and plans to fill the position are going to be completed as soon as possible. Coverage will come from the secretary at the Naubinway office so there will be days of office closures for both offices.
- The Newberry office construction has been delayed due to current costs of labor and materials within the construction market, estimated costs for the original design exceeded the budget. We are continuing to work with architect on refining the design plan to align with the project budget. Groundbreaking not likely to occur until Spring of 2023. Dave Graham, Administrative Manager can be contacted for specific questions, comments, or concerns at [grahamd1@michigan.gov](mailto:grahamd1@michigan.gov) or 906-293-5131 ext. 4006.

### **Season Dates August 2022**

- 8/1 – Crow season re-opens (open dates are 8/1 – 9/30 and 2/1 – 3/31)
- 8/1 – Deadline for Fall Turkey applications
- 8/1 – May apply for Reserved Waterfowl hunts
- 8/1 – Hook & Lure size/weight restrictions begin on all streams (through 5/31, see p. 11)
- 8/10 – May place bear blinds in Zone 1 and may place bear baits in Zone 1
- 8/15 – Deadline for U.P. Antlerless Access Permit applications (also Reserved Deer Hunts)
- 8/15 – Fall Turkey Drawing results posted on Web site
- 8/17 – May place bear blinds in Zone 2 (see Bear Digest for baiting dates)
- 8/22 - Leftover Turkey Licenses on sale (for unsuccessful applicants; OTC for all on 8/29)
- 8/28 – Deadline to apply for Reserved Waterfowl
- 8/29 – Drawing Results for U.P. Antlerless Access & Reserved Deer posted online
- 8/302 - Elk Hunt #1 opens (see Elk Digest for all hunt period dates)

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

### **Timber Sales**

- Nineteen timber sales were offered over the last two months.
- Upland Pine and hardwood pulp sales are drawing most interest due to existing markets.
- Some uncut timber sales are being returned; all involving lowland conifer timber types.
- Timber sale activity in the Newberry FMU has been below average for this time of year; currently five active timber sales.
- Timber sale activity in the Shingleton FMU has been steady and is beginning to increase in hardwoods with the end of bark slip season.
- All staff have been involved in preparing annual timber sales and much work has been accomplished thus far by both DNR staff and contractors.

### **Forest Inventory**

- Field work for the 2024 YOE is wrapping up in the EUP. Pre-review meetings began in July and will continue through August. The public review process will begin in September and will continue through October. Open House Meetings will be held on the following dates: Sault Ste Marie – 9/14/22, Shingleton – 9/22/22, Newberry – 10/5/22

### **Cultivation**

- Scarification: Scarification is to start any time. The information for the DO for contract scarification is sent in and we're just waiting on Holli Forest Products to send in a proposal for fuel surcharge, and to begin their contract work.
- Herbicide Work – all contracted.
  - Aerial site prep work was completed on 07/09/2021. A total of 583.8 acres were sprayed in 2 days by Hammock Flying Services (sub-contractor for Hamilton Helicopters). Work consisted of three large projects in northern Luce County and one project in western Mackinac County.



- Skidder site prep work is currently ongoing in the EUP. Work has been completed in both the Sault and Newberry Units. The contractor is currently finished the last site in the Shingleton Unit. A total of 160.2 acres will be completed when finished.
- Trenching: Trenching has started (even with fire season).
  - Shingleton Unit has completed roughly 40 acres on the Thompson Plains.
  - Newberry Unit has completed roughly 362 acres on 9 sites in N Luce Co.
  - Shingleton Unit has also begun trenching north of Seney with the WUP power trencher. One Forest Fire Office from Cass City will be assisting with trenching efforts.
- Roller Chopping: Roller Chopping started in the Sault Unit. To date, 6 of 10 sites are completed for roughly 143 acres.
- Pre-Commercial Thinning (PCT – release work on red pine and oak):
  - EUP now has seven sites for PCT work totaling 199.2 acres. Additional site was added in the Newberry Unit for 22.8 acres. Crew is currently working on sites in both the Newberry and Sault Units. All sites completed to date have shown very good results.
  - Sault FMU = 4 sites for 102.9 acres – includes two stands of oak release work in Kinross
  - Newberry FMU = Two sites for 73.5 acres, additional site for 22.8 acres added
- Root Rake Work/Hardwood Progeny Test Site: 23.2 acres on SH FMU – root rake work to prep for hardwood progeny site
- RX Burning: To date, no cultivation RX burns have been completed.

#### **Fire**

- Staff have been assisting in fire suppression efforts within the district. Seasonal drought codes are beginning to climb.
- Ground fire has increased steadily since June and all fires are taking extended mop-up
- Shingleton Unit Fires (only unit to report like this):
  - 6/29 Wagner Taylor Dam Fire, 8 Acres Lightning
  - 7/2 Creighton Swamp Fire 203 Acres, Lightning
  - 7/17 12 Mile Fire, 46 Acres, Escaped Campfire
  - 7/23 East Driggs, 11 Acres, Currently under investigation

#### **Road and Bridge**

- Staff repaired a large water/mud hole on the 8-mile Grade which also serves as a snowmobile trail. Other road repairs are being planned on Pullup Lakes Road and Chris Brown Lake Road. Working with UP Engineering involving 4 stream crossing upgrades along the Charcoal Grade; Ottobrandt Bridge, Penny Creek Bridge, Savage Creek Bridge, Linton Creek Culvert.
- DNR staff is working on the culvert inventory again this summer. UPRC&D is also conducting some of this work within the Tahquamenon River watershed and Trout Unlimited will be starting some work as well come August.
- Two Capital Outlay projects are being worked on Star Road and Petrel Road as well as Two ORV projects, Trail 8 and Thompson Tracks, but these have been slowed due to fire activity.

**Facilities:** Shingleton has solicited bids for a Design Professional for the Manistique Fire Shop. Bids were also accepted for a Silicone lining for the Shingleton Fire Garage.

#### **Forest Health**

- Forest Health staff provided training to staff on Heterobasidion root disease and other red pine health issues during red pine management training in June.
- Staff have been collecting reports of forest health issues. The EUP has been fairly quiet, this year, however we have received reports of a heavy seed crop and sparse leaves on red maple and very localized reports of continued spruce budworm defoliation. Reports of forest damage from high water tables a few years ago continue. We have also received a few reports of lecanium scale on maple and oak, often noticed by the sticky exudates from the scale coating understory plants. Aerial survey activities in July will further inform forest health in the EUP.

**Cooperative Forest Management:** CF & Private Lands Specialist responsibilities will be covered by the WUP Inventory and Planning Specialist until at least September.

### Land Use

- Working to resolve historic structure trespasses that are on state land. Also reviewing applications for various state land uses.
- Auction on August 26<sup>th</sup>, online bidding for state parcels in Mackinac and Chippewa county.
- Exchange completed with Carmeuse in Mackinac and Schoolcraft County – land and minerals.
- State Land Review (local level) for Alger and Schoolcraft Counties was completed. : Alger County – 97 parcels reviewed; Schoolcraft – 158 parcels reviewed; next phase is Lead Review

**Forest Certification:** Shingleton underwent an internal audit in June.

### Training

- Red pine training was held in the EUP in June
- 1 staff member attended Single Resource Boss Training in Gaylord
- Forest Communities and Habitat Types of Michigan (Kotar) will be held in August

### Vacancies

- Newberry filled Forest Tech vacancy that had previously been open for several months.
- Newberry's Fire Supervisor position is being temporarily filled by a working out of class candidate.
- EUP Inventory and Planning Specialist position was filled.

## **EUP Wildlife Division: David Lemmien, UP Wildlife Supervisor-Sault Ste. Marie**

### Waterfowl Banding Effort

- Staff banded 73 Canada geese in the eastern UP and had 10 recaptures
- Ducks will be banded in the coming weeks, band recoveries can show how the waterfowl harvest is distributed throughout states, flyways, or the continent. Additionally, band recovery data can be used to estimate age, sex, and species-specific survival; harvest rates and derivation; crippling losses; recovery rates; and band reporting rates. All this information helps waterfowl managers set hunting seasons and bag limits each year to support healthy waterfowl populations.

**Nuisance Wildlife Complaints:** The summer transition is still a busy time for nuisance complaints as some animals enter the breeding season, tourism peaks and available food sources from the public increase. Complaints are waning as woodland food sources become readily available.

**State Forest Management:** Wildlife staff are preparing for compartment review by visiting proposed treatments on approx. 100,000ac of state land. In the EUP. During this time, wildlife staff in all areas of the UP are working closely with other division staff to determine the management direction of state land parcels. Joint decisions are made which benefit timber harvest and wildlife habitat protection, enhancement and creation. These details are presented at open house meetings for the public to review and comment on in each of the State Forest Management Units prior to final decisions. **2022 open houses are planned for Newberry on October 5, 2022, Sault Ste. Marie on September 15, 2022 and Shingleton on September 22, 2022-the public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Visit: <https://midnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=43579d040c7d4860b125e405f531d465> to provide input electronically.**

### Habitat Management

- Continued opening maintenance throughout the region, herbaceous plantings within openings, GEMS and DWC's completed July-Aug and typically include clover, rye to benefit deer and upland game birds
- Hunter walking trail improvements and access improvements continue prior to fall hunting season

**2023/2024 Bear Regulation and Harvest Quote Recommendations Being Developed**

- Wildlife division staff within the Newberry Bear Management Unit (Shingleton, Newberry, and Sault Ste Marie offices) have been working on recommendations which then move to the NRC for approval.
- The current UP 4-year population trajectory goal is “to continue to increase the bear population, but at a slower rate, by increasing harvest slightly.”

**Shore-to-Shore Birding Trail, Blind Sucker Flooding and Black Creek Flooding Projects**

- Wildlife staff, particularly those in the Newberry Unit, continue to partner with other organizations on development of the Shore-to-Shore Birding Trail, which is slated to span portions of Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, and Schoolcraft counties.
- There will be an opening event at the Paradise Wild Blueberry Festival with free guided birding tours (transportation provided from the festival location to W.P. and back) at Whitefish Point Friday and Saturday (Aug 19 & 20). The birding trail website is now live ([www.shoretoshorebirdingtrail.org](http://www.shoretoshorebirdingtrail.org)) and print materials are soon to come.
- Invasive species control is underway at Black Creek Flooding on poison parsnip that includes mowing with eventual chemical application.
- \$125k EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant is ongoing for the Blind Sucker Flooding with focuses on removing invasive phragmites and restoring wild rice communities. Other benefits will include marsh bird surveys and developing a wildlife recreation trail around the flooding with informational kiosks. This work will occur over the next two years in concert with Marquette County partners, CISMA, MNFI and local Tribes.

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

<b>Project Name: Haywire Grade – 11 Bridges</b>	<b>Project Name: Trail 8 – 3 Bridges</b>	<b>Project Name: Bissel Creek Culvert</b>	<b>Project Name: O’Brian Creek Crossing</b>
Description: Engineer and replace 11 bridges	Description: Engineer and replace 3 bridges	Description: Engineer culvert replacement	Description: Replace falling gabion basket system with sheet pile on M-123 in Paradise
Trail Use: ORV/Snowmobile	Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use:	Trail Use: ORV
Anticipated Completion: ??	Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: 2022	Anticipated Completion: July 2022
Q3 Update: DTMB working with engineering on 1 <sup>st</sup> bridge	Q3 Update: Melstrand crossing designed, Beartrap being designed, and Ionia is just starting engineering	Q3 Update: Extra funding acquired and project moving to bid	2021 Q3 Update: Project scheduled to be completed end of July; it is on schedule
<b>Project Name: 20th Street Culvert</b>	<b>Project Name: Headquarters Lake Equestrian Signs</b>	<b>Project Name: Blind Sucker Pathway Boardwalk</b>	<b>Project Name: Millecoquins River Bridge</b>
Description: Replace concrete culverts	Description: Signs & Canada Lakes brushing	Description: Rebuild boardwalk	Description: Snowmobile bridge footing replacement
Trail Use: Multi use	Trail Use: Equestrian	Trail Use: Hiking	Trail Use: Snowmobile
Anticipated Completion: 2023	Anticipated Completion: 2022	Anticipated Completion: 2022	Anticipated Completion: 2022
Q3 Update: Project sent to DTMB for engineering	Q3 Update: Signing being installed, almost complete	Q3 Update: Waiting on funding to finish the last boardwalk; hope to finish this fall	Q3 Update: \$70,000 more needed to bid and construct

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

All the summer activities are keeping District 2 CO’s running in many directions. Our new CO Academy started up in Lansing on July 15<sup>th</sup> with 15 non-certified attending and an additional 3 pre-certified officers beginning their separate

training. With many weeks of training ahead, it will be some time before the new probationary officers that successfully complete all training are assigned to the field. Reports since our last CAC are shown below.

#### **DISTRICT 2 - 5-15-2022 – 5-29-2022**

- **CO Andrea Dani** received a complaint of recreational trespass on a posted portion of the West Branch of the Whitefish River near Trenary. CO Dani patrolled to the area and located the pickup truck described by the complainant parked directly across the road from a gate with a No Trespassing sign. CO Dani followed multiple sets of boot tracks from the vehicle across the gravel road to and beyond the posted gate. She then encountered the anglers on their way out. The anglers admitted to walking past the posted gate and stated they did not know the property was “actually private.” Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Chris Lynch** attended a week-long tactical tracking school at Fort Custer. The course taught various tracking techniques to assist COs in Search and Rescue efforts and criminal investigations / apprehensions.
- **CO Steve Butzin** received an in-progress trespassing complaint in Ford River Township. CO Butzin was able to quickly respond to the area and waited for the suspect to again walk past the no trespassing signs. After a short while, contact was made with several anglers. A citation was issued for recreational trespassing.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol in Ford River Township when he checked an angler who did not have a license. When CO Butzin asked the angler to produce a license, he stated he was in the military and produced a military identification card. Further investigation found that the angler was not in any branch military and the identification card was a civilian card used to enter on and off base. A citation was issued for fishing without a license.
- **CO Steve Butzin and Forest Resource Division (FRD) fire personnel** gave a presentation of their job responsibilities to the local Girl Scout Troop 5252 from Escanaba. The girls also got to see department issued equipment, got a tour of the office, and were able to use a fire hose. Several boxes of Girl Scout cookies were donated to the Escanaba Field Office staff from the Girl Scouts who thanked the department for the services they provide.
- **COs Cole VanOosten and PCO Mark Reffitt** followed up on a complaint of a Canada goose gosling that was taken from the wild in Luce County. The COs arrived at the residence of an individual who had been posting videos and images of the goose on social media. Upon contact with the subject, she began yelling and swearing at the COs and refused to give her name or give up the gosling. The COs were eventually able to confirm that they had taken the baby goose two days earlier, the COs seized the animal and safely returned it to a family of wild geese in the area. A report is being submitted to the Luce County Prosecutor’s Office.
- **COs Todd Sumbera, Justin Vinson, Cole VanOosten, Brandon Maki, Stephen Butzin, Jacob Daniel, and Sgts. Calvin Smith and Mark Zitnik** served a search warrant at a residence on Drummond Island for illegally possessed firearms. During the search, 23 firearms and hundreds of rounds of ammunition were seized and charges of felon possessing firearms are pending with the Chippewa County Prosecutor’s Office.

#### **DISTRICT 2 - 5-29-2022 - 6-11-2022**

- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** responded with personnel from the US Forest Service (USFS), Alger County Sheriff’s Office, K-9 Alger, and MSP to a search and rescue of lost bikers in the Hiawatha National Forest near the Indian River. Alger County Dispatch relayed GPS coordinates from a ping from the subject’s 911 call. CO Dani checked a cabin near the pinged location and located one subject. The second subject was located about a half mile away in the woods. The officers escorted the subject out of the woods without incident.
- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint of several anglers trespassing on private lands in Ford River Township. CO Butzin went to the location and observed several anglers walk past several no trespassing signs. A citation was issued to the anglers for recreational trespassing.
- **COs Steve Butzin and Michael Evink** participated in a local event at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Pocket Park in Escanaba. The COs gave a presentation to approximately 70 children on conservation officers job duties. The children also got to see and interact with some of the COs issued equipment.
- **COs Mike Evink, Andrea Dani, Cpl. Mike Hammill, and Sgt. Mark Zitnik** assisted at the DNR Pocket Park with a kid’s fishing day. Over 275 children attended the event and participated in many activities that the volunteers from the USFS and the DNR set up. Some of the events were a minnow race, casting contest, face painting, target shooting with bows and pellet guns, and fishing where the kids could catch crappie, bluegill, pike, and perch. Despite the rain, the children and the parents took part in the wonderful event and were even provided a meal for the day and a raffle prize that consisted of either a fishing pole or a tackle box. This was the first time the event has taken place at the DNR Pocket Park at the U.P. State Fairgrounds and with such an excellent turnout there may be more kids fishing in the days to come.
- While parked in a hidden location near a busy ORV bridge, **CO Robert Freeborn** observed a couple subjects stop and start to fish. After watching the subjects for several minutes, CO Freeborn observed one subject catch several fish and put them in a net that was in the water. After watching the subject for several more minutes, CO Freeborn walked down to the bridge to contact the angler. When asked how many fish he had caught, the man stated he had not caught a thing. CO Freeborn advised the subject that he had been watching him catch fish and put them in the net in the river. The subject then quickly replied “Well,

just give me the ticket.” When asked why, the subject stated he did not have a fishing license. CO Freeborn confirmed that he did not have a valid license and was issued a citation for fishing without a license.

- **CO Robert Freeborn** responded, along with local emergency medical services (EMS) and the MSP, to a complaint from local dispatch of two subjects possibly drowning in a local lake. Upon arrival on the scene, it was determined that the subjects had been picked up by an angler on the lake and were unharmed. The subjects were transported to shore and checked out by EMS where they were released.
- **COs Justin Vinson and PCO Mark Reffitt** were on marine patrol in Luce County when they received a call regarding an open burn in progress south of Newberry. The complainant stated that several individuals were open burning a half mile north of his home and that ashes were falling on his roof. The COs arrived on scene and spoke to the individuals who were responsible for the open burn and observed that proper safety protocols were in place to prevent the spread of the fire. The individuals were observed to be burning only natural materials. The COs then visited the complainant to explain the state burning laws and informed him that the individuals were not in violation since open burning was currently allowed in Luce County and they were burning materials that were legal to burn.
- **COs Todd Sumbera and PCO Jacob Daniel** received a complaint of two dogs running at-large and killing a fawn. The COs interviewed the dog’s owner who was not at home when the fawn was killed. A report has been submitted to the Chippewa County Prosecutor’s Office for review of allowing dogs to run at-large.
- **CO Mike Olesen** responded to a single motorcycle accident on I 75. CO Olesen assisted with shutting down a lane of traffic for EMS. The cyclist lost control on wet roads and fortunately did not sustain life-threatening injuries.
- **CO Mike Olesen and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were on marine patrol when they were contacted by the central dispatch regarding two missing kayakers on the St. Mary’s River. The COs responded and were able to locate the missing duo who had taken shelter during a sudden thunderstorm by tucking in behind some small islands.

#### **DISTRICT 2 - 6-12-2022- 6-25-2022**

- While on patrol in Munising Bay, **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** observed a boat trolling with 10 lines out. The COs contacted the boat and observed two anglers on board, making for a legal line limit of six. CO Maki issued the operator a citation for the overlimit of lines.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** and a USFS officer responded to a report of a missing hiker in Alger County. The officers located the subject who informed them she had neurological issues and requested EMS. The officers waited with the subject until EMS could arrive.
- **COs Steven Butzin, Michael Evink, and Cpl. Michael Hammill** conducted a marine patrol of salmon anglers in Lake Michigan south of the Port of Manistique. Fishing was still slow, but the COs issued two tickets. The first was for fishing with too many lines. The second was a Wisconsin angler fishing more than a mile into Michigan waters, he was issued a ticket for fishing without a license.
- **COs Todd Sumbera, Mike Olesen, Justin Vinson, Brandon Maki, Sergeant (Sgt.) Calvin Smith, and PCO’s Jacob Daniel and Mark Reffitt** held a hunter safety class and field day in Sault Ste Marie. All participants successfully passed the course.
- **COs Mike Olesen and Sgt. Calvin Smith** teamed up with the US Coast Guard for the Soo Locks Engineer Day. The COs assisted in enforcing the 1,000-foot perimeter surrounding the Soo Locks from recreational vessel traffic.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** participated in the annual Engineer’s Day at the Soo Locks. CO VanOosten talked to numerous members of the public regarding the job duties of a conservation officer and was able to show several pelts and skulls from various Michigan wildlife species.

#### **District 2 - 6-26-2022 – 7-9-2022**

- **COs Steve Butzin, Chris Lynch, and Robert Freeborn** conducted a hunter safety field day at the Escanaba DNR Pocket Park with the help of DNR Staff JoAnn Alexander. This successful class resulted in over 28 students receiving their hunter safety certificates.
- **COs Steve Butzin and Chris Lynch** were finishing a marine patrol near Manistique when dispatch requested their assistance with a “shots fired” call in the Thompson area, a short distance from their location. The two COs responded to a residence where they discovered a female that was limping on one leg and was hysterically crying. COs were informed that her ex-boyfriend had unlawfully entered her residence, pointed a handgun at her, and refused to let her leave her residence. After a while, the female was able to escape the residence as the ex-boyfriend became distracted. As she was running away from the residence the ex-boyfriend pursued and ultimately ended up firing three rounds from the handgun in an unknown direction. The female was able to run to several other individuals who contacted 911. COs arrived at the location in under 5 minutes to discover the suspect had already fled the scene and his location was unknown. COs provided law enforcement partners the description of vehicles the suspect could be driving while they stayed at the scene to provide aid and protection to the victim. After a short while the suspect was located and taken into custody in the City of Manistique without incident. The incident was turned over to the Michigan State Police for further investigation. It was confirmed a shooting took place and the suspect had the firearm used in

the shooting in his vehicle at the time he was taken into custody. The firearm was still loaded with a round in the chamber. Violations of the suspect included unlawful entry of a residence, felonious assault, violation of a personal protection order, felony conceal weapons, operate a motor vehicle without registration/securities, among others. The suspect was lodged at the Schoolcraft County jail.

- **COs Steve Butzin, Chris Lynch, Andrea Dani, and F/Lt Jason Wicklund** recently testified at trial reference a 2020 case where one individual was found to have taken many deer without licenses, this individual has not possessed a valid deer hunting license since at least 1995. A search warrant was executed on the residence of the suspect which uncovered approximately 45 sets of deer antler skull caps, many of these deer were large mature bucks. Along with the antlers, other evidence was collected at the scene that corroborates the suspects claims to have shot many deer without licenses. Several interviews and genetic testing of evidence collected all pointed towards the fact that this individual has taken many deer both in season and out of season without licenses. A report was submitted with the 94<sup>th</sup> District Court of Delta County which ultimately led to a trial by jury. The jury found the individual guilty on three counts of unlawfully taking or possessing three 8-point whitetail bucks without licenses. Re for these three deer will total \$18,000.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** were on marine patrol when they were dispatched to a call of a capsized kayaker on Big Bay De Noc. The COs obtained a larger vessel for Lake Michigan waters and proceeded to the scene when they were called off. The kayaker successfully self-rescued and was being checked out by medical personnel.
- **CO Chris Lynch assisted CO Richard Cardenas** in a larceny and unlawful driving away of an automobile investigation.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** conducted several Marine Safety and Aquatic Invasive species patrols over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Compliance was high and people were very appreciative of the COs efforts despite the poor weather over the weekend.
- **COs from District 2** assisted in a joint patrol/protection detail for MI Air National Guard, Northern Operation Agility/Hawk LZ. The M-28 passing lane between Singleton and Munising was closed for the exercise with traffic begin detoured. COs were stationed at various points of entry with four-wheelers and side-by-sides for nearby trail security while several different military planes landed, refueled, and took off. COs worked in conjunction with Michigan State Police, Alger County Sheriff's Department, Alger County Road Commission, Munising Fire Department, U.S. Forest Service, Alger County EMS & MDOT. The event was a success.
- **CO's from across the state** attended a Hunter Education Instructor Academy at the Ralph A. MacMullen Center. The officers were able to meet several volunteer instructors from across the state and learned about additional course content and teaching methods.
- While on patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn** observed a vehicle ahead of him with several broken windows and an expired license plate. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the vehicle also did not have insurance and an enforcement stop was made. During the stop, the driver was asked why they were missing several windows in the vehicle. The driver stated that a tree had fallen on their car this summer and broke the windows and had not gotten it fixed yet. A citation was issued for failing to register the vehicle and a warning for operating without security.
- **CO Robert Freeborn assisted COs Steve Butzin and Chris Lynch** with hunter safety field day/test day at the Escanaba pocket park. All kids did a great job, and all received their certification.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Mike Evink** were on routine marine patrol when they observed 2 kayaks together in a busy lake. After asking if either boat had PFDs, both stated they did not. A citation was issued for no PFD.
- While on routine ORV patrol on a busy ORV trail, **CO Robert Freeborn** observed a truck go by with an expired license plate. An enforcement stop was made on the vehicle and after a brief investigation, it was determined that the driver had proof of an appointment at the SOS for his plate. Upon speaking with the passenger, it was determined that she had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant for failing to appear for a traffic-related offense. The warrant was confirmed and after failing to produce the required bond, the female was placed under arrest and transported to jail without incident. **CO Mike Evink** assisted in the stop as well.
- While on patrol checking salmon fisherman, **CO Robert Freeborn and Cpl. Mike Hammill** contacted over 50 boats. While overall compliance was good, the COs did locate a boat with an expired registration as well as another fisherman fishing with more than 3 lines. A citation was issued for both violations.
- **COs Michael Evink and Robert Freeborn** participated in the annual Manistique 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. The COs towed their division issued Great Lakes patrol boat.
- **CO Michael Evink** conducted a patrol of Lake Michigan. Fishing was slow and compliance was high. CO Evink issued one ticket for using too many lines.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Brandon Maki** assisted officers from the Great Lakes Enforcement Unit (GLEU) with checking a lost tribal commercial fishing trap net that had located after having been lost for approximately 1 year. COs located the net and with the help of the commercial fisherman who owned the net were able to lift it to the surface. The net was feared to have been left in a state where it was actively fishing, however, it was found to be closed and no fish were in the net.

- **CO Brandon Maki** was on a back road when he observed a four-wheeler coming down the road without the operator wearing a helmet. As the four-wheeler approached, CO Maki could see a young girl sitting behind the operator also not wearing a helmet. CO Maki stopped the individual driving and informed of the issues at hand. CO Maki cited the operator for failing to wear helmets and gave a warning for operating with a passenger not designed to carry one.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was performing a marine patrol on AuTrain Lake when he observed an individual fishing in a boat with an expired registration. CO Maki approached the boat and could see the sole individual in the boat had four lines actively fishing. CO Maki contacted the individual and informed him of the issues at hand. The subject was subsequently cited for fishing with too many lines and given a warning for having an expired registration.
- **CO Justin Vinson** stopped a vehicle towing a boat with aquatic vegetation wrapped around his prop. CO Vinson informed the subject that all water and vegetation needed to be removed from his boat prior to transporting it. After educating the subject on the importance of preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species a verbal warning was given.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was patrolling Chippewa County for ORV activity when he observed an ORV operating along a state highway. A traffic stop was conducted, after making contact with the operator CO Olesen could smell the odor of intoxicants coming from the driver. At this time CO Olesen had the driver step out and perform a field sobriety test. The passenger insisted on stepping out to videotape the sobriety test and when doing so, kicked out a beer can that was hidden from view. Subsequently the passenger was cited for possessing open intoxicants in an ORV and the driver was cited for operating an ORV on a state highway after passing the field sobriety test.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on marine patrol of the St. Mary's River when checks were being performed of anglers fishing behind the local powerhouse. CO Olesen checked anglers for valid fishing licenses along with proper marine equipment. The patrol resulted in one citation for no PFD onboard and three verbal warnings given for no type 4 PFD.
- **COs Mike Olesen and Todd Sumbera** were patrolling the Les Cheneaux Islands when they observed an individual fishing with two kids and decided to support the McDonalds life jacket initiative and give the children a coupon for wearing their life jackets. While approaching the vessel, the adult picked up a fishing stringer and at that time it was apparent that undersize northern pike were being kept. Officers made contact with the occupants of the boat and it was determined that 2 undersize pike were in possession, along with another undersize northern pike and smallmouth bass located back at their dock. The adult was subsequently cited for possession of an undersize northern pike.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on patrol in Chippewa County when he observed an ORV stuck on a snowmobile trail closed to ORV traffic. CO Olesen contacted the operators of the 2 ATVs and explained the violation and that not all snowmobile trails are open to ORVs. During the contact it was determined that one operator also did not have his ATV licensed and was cited for failing to display a valid ORV license. The operators were given a verbal warning for operating ORVs in a closed area.
- **CO Mike Olesen** performed an ORV patrol of a heavily travelled area that is closed to ORV operation in Chippewa County. During the patrol CO Olesen made contact with one group of ORV's that were in violation. CO Olesen pointed out the numerous No ORV signs which the group passed to reach his location. The operator leading the group of ORVs was cited for operating an ORV in a closed area.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** conducted a marine patrol in Mackinac County over the fourth of July weekend, activity was very high with most people in compliance with marine and fishing laws. Throughout CO Sumbera's patrol he contacted a handful of individuals operating vessels with expired registration, failure to provide PFD's and a fishing without a license. In total, CO Sumbera issued eight citations for the above violations and issued even more warnings for other marine violations over the weekend.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was patrolling a river in Mackinac County in a slow no wake area when he observed a vessel go by at a high rate of speed leaving wake. Residents living along the river could be heard yelling for the individual to slow down as he cruised by. Upon making contact, CO Sumbera asked if he heard any of the citizens yelling at him to slow down, he stated that he didn't. CO Sumbera asked if he thought that was due to his high speeds and the subject stated, "yeah, that could be."
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** received a call from central dispatch of a group of four people who had crashed and were now lost in a remote part of Northern Luce County. After receiving coordinates from a cell phone ping, the COs drove to the area and used their knowledge of the area, they located the stranded group and were able to bring the safely back to their campsite with help from the Michigan State Police.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol of Luce County when he observed an individual fishing from shore. Upon contact with the individual, he stated that he wasn't fishing but helping his grandson learn to fish. With nobody else in the immediate area, CO VanOosten asked where his grandson was. The man pointed to a young boy who was fishing with another adult approximately 150 yards away. The man was issued a citation for fishing without a license.
- **Sgt Calvin Smith and COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** took part in the fourth of July parade. They handed out large amounts of candy and were able to promote life jacket safety and have positive contacts with a large group of people.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on ORV patrol of Northern Luce County when he observed a group of ORVs parked on the beach. As CO VanOosten approached a man stated, "Something tells me we are in trouble". CO VanOosten informed the group that they were in a closed area and the importance of leaving the beach undisturbed. A citation was issued to one member of the group of operating on the beach.



## DISTRICT 2 7-10-2022 - 7-24-2022

- While patrolling on M-28, **CO Andrea Dani** observed a side-by-side travelling west-bound on the highway along the east-bound lane. CO Dani stopped the ORV and warned the 15-year-old operator and later their guardian for operating the ORV on a public highway.
- **CO Andrea Dani** received a report of a driver intentionally swerving to kill a family of ducks on M-28. CO Dani responded to the location where she found one duckling carcass. Blood spatter evidence indicated the duckling was hit in the lane of travel; the investigation continues.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was informed of a litter site containing refrigeration units on state land. CO Maki was given a possible suspect to investigate. CO Maki attempted to locate the subject several times with no success as of yet. Investigation is ongoing.
- **CO Brandon Maki** responded along with **Sgt. Mark Zitnik** to a fire that escaped around the 12-mile beach area off H-58 near Grand Marais. It was feared that the fire might travel quickly. Sgt. Zitnik and CO Maki stood by if evacuations of nearby residences/camps needed to occur. Fortunately, the DNR fire crews were able to contain the fire quickly and control it.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol when he was advised by Delta County Central Dispatch of a paddle boat that was taking on water in Little Bay de Noc. CO Butzin was able to respond to the location of the paddle boat and observed that it had taken on a large amount of water, the individuals operating the paddle boat had drifted over a mile away from where they left due to high winds. CO Butzin was able to bring the two individuals aboard his patrol boat and transport them back to their residence. The Delta County Sheriff's department also responded to assist in recovering the paddle boat as it could not be towed and had to be loaded onto another vessel for transport.
- **CO Steve Butzin and Chris Lynch** conducted a hunter safety field day with the assistance of DNR Staff JoAnn Alexander. The successful class resulted in 32 students receiving their hunter safety certificates.
- **CO Chris Lynch** instructed Emergency Vehicle Operations at the Michigan State Police Drive Track to current and new Conservation Officers.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** was patrolling a busy ORV trail when he observed a pickup truck doing donuts in the trail. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the vehicle did not have a license plate attached to the vehicle. An enforcement stop was made, and the driver was asked about his careless manner of driving. The driver stated that he had no excuse and thought it would be fun. Upon checking with dispatch, it was also determined that the vehicle did not currently have insurance as well. The driver received a citation for operating an unregistered vehicle.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a complaint from a swimmer who had found part of a human skull in Indian Lake. Upon investigating the skull, it was determined that it was indeed a human skull and appeared to be very old. The skull was turned over to MSP where it will be sent to the lab for aging as well as DNA tests. The investigation is still pending.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink** assisted in locating subjects involved in a vehicle pursuit with MSP. The vehicle's driver was said to have a felony and a misdemeanor warrant and possible drugs inside the car. Upon the attempted stop by an MSP trooper, the vehicle fled at a high rate of speed in a rural area of Cooks. The COs arrived within minutes of the vehicle going off-road through wooded trails and corn fields. Later that evening, the passenger was located but the driver was unable to be found. The next morning CO Freeborn was advised by a camp owner in Cooks that his camp was broken into the previous night and that someone slept there. The suspect left plenty of DNA evidence behind which was collected by MSP. The wanted driver is the prime suspect in the B&E. The investigation is still pending, and several new charges will be sought on the driver through MSP.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** responded to a complaint of barking dogs at a state forest campground. Upon arrival it was determined that the owner of the dogs was enroute to pick up the hunting dogs. As the owner arrived COs contacted him and determined he had numerous outstanding warrants and did not have a driver's license or insurance on his truck. The man was arrested and lodged in the Luce County Jail for the warrants and a report was generated requesting charges against the man for operating without a license and operate without insurance, the dogs remained in the custody of the other campers who were advised to keep them quiet or take them elsewhere.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on marine patrol in Luce County when he contacted three fishermen. The fishermen stated that they had caught three smallmouth bass. It was determined that one of the bass was less than 14 inches. A citation was issued to the man for possessing a smallmouth bass less than 14 inches.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Todd Sumbera** patrolled the St. Mary's River for marine activity. Several boats were checked for the required safety equipment and two vessels were found to not to have a personal flotation device (PFD) on board for all occupants. Citations were issued for failing to provide a PFD.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on routine marine patrol when he came across a vessel with two fishermen trying their luck. The vessel was checked for the required safety equipment, and it was found not to have any personal floatation devices on board. The owner of the boat stated to CO Olesen that he had forgot the PFDs in his vehicle at the boat launch. A citation was issued for failing to provide a PFD.

- **COs Mike Olesen, Cole Vanoosten, and Todd Sumbera** responded to a call of missing fisherman that had failed to return from the previous day of fishing a remote stream in Northern Luce County. The missing man was found safe after a brief search of the area and other than spending the night in the woods he was in good health. The COs were assisted by the USFWS, Michigan State Police, and the Luce County Sheriff's Department.

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

- Spring fingerling walleye were harvested from unit and co-op ponds the weeks of June 27th and July 4th. All 2022 inland prescriptions in the U.P. were met and a few 2023 requests were stocked to try and balance out the number of requests for even/odd years. Little Bay de Noc received 358K. Thanks for TSFH for their stocking efforts in Indian Lake (Schoolcraft County) and Little Bay de Noc from the hatchery ponds.
- Salmon fishing around Manistique, Fairport, and eastern Green Bay really picked up the week of July 4th, mainly Chinook with some Steelhead mixed in. Overall catches have been steady and boat anglers are marking lots of alewife. A 35-lb Chinook was recently caught out of Fairport according to the local DNR creel clerk.
- ELSMU staff continued work on the Fisheries Habitat Grant funded Au Train Lake Habitat Improvement Project. Staff met with US Forest Service to identify locations for placement of FishSticks and brush bundle structures. A second public meeting in Au Train will occur on August 6th.
- Staff met with US Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss potential locations for a seasonal sea lamprey barrier on the Sucker River as well as the replacement of the Hwy 58 bridge over the Sucker River. This project has received funding from numerous sources and may occur in 2024.
- Staff met with Bay Mills Indian Community, Chippewa County Road Commission, Huron Pines, Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac Conservation District to discuss priority road stream crossings in the Waishkey River Watershed.
- Staff attended Lake Superior Technical Committee Meeting in Marquette. Discussion topics included a splake introgression study, Fish Community Objective metrics, a lakewide diet study, walleye genetics, and coregonine restoration.
- Lake Superior Basin Team met end of June. Topics covered, priority habitat projects for Fisheries Division, steelhead stocking Carp River, Lake Superior Management Plan development, and creel survey annual report usage
- The St. Marys River Fisheries Task Group will be setting nets in the St. Marys River during the month of August for a fish community survey. This is the tenth survey in the series, dating back to 1975. See the attached press release for more information [St Marys River Survey](#).

### **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: Contractor has yet to mobilize, with construction lasting until November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Brimley Toilet/Shower building replacement: Buildings were opened to the public on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The contractor will be back in the Fall, after the buildings are shutdown, to complete items on the punch list.
- Summer worker positions are filled at Brimley, with a couple of vacancies at DeTour/Lime.
- The vacant Seasonal Ranger E, at DeTour/Lime is in the process of being filled
- Brimley: The campground opened for the season on June 30<sup>th</sup>, due to construction of new Restroom/Shower Buildings. Since opening to date (7/20) the campground is at 81% occupancy, with wknds being full. Compared to 2021 (same dates) 86% occupancy.
- DeTour State Harbor opened on May 15, 2022. There have been 398 slip nights to date, compared to 414 in 2021 (Same dates)
- Lime Island Recreation Area has been slow, due to Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday closures for construction of new docks in the Harbor. These mid-week closures will remain in effect until the end of the season (Labor Day)
- Munuscong & DeTour SFCG's occupancy numbers are comparable to 2021.
- The Brimley State Park new Restroom/Shower buildings have been very well received by our campers.... public comments have been very positive.

- Lime Island Common Tern nesting numbers were down significantly this year. DNR Wildlife, PRD Stewardship and other partners are trying to figure out why.
- The DeTour SFCG well had to be closed to the public in late June/early July, due to a bad water sample. The well was chlorinated and is currently open for public use.
- Park and Harbor staff have been busy keeping our facilities clean and safe for the public.

### **Fayette Historic State Park**

- **Townsite:** General reactionary maintenance to window sashes, doors, locks, siding, etc. PO for dark gravel for townsite outer rim roads is being cut.
- **Park:** Landscape block mini-wall laid along Park Headquarters entrance sidewalk. General taking care of guest services & maintenance items.
- Had a full complement of STWs, then a couple quit – we are holding our own.
- Christmas in June held June 18<sup>th</sup>. 114 camps Fri & Sat nights – previous 5-year average (not counting 2020) is 92.
- Harbor traffic is way down.

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

- Preconstruction meeting took place on July 21<sup>st</sup> for the Palms Book Septic system.
- Start of the Palms Book Septic field project is planned for Monday July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, with the first phase of tree removal. First septic field is planned to be operational by 09/27/2022 depending on supplies. Second field completions date is scheduled for 10/28/2022.
- Indian Lake State Park Hazardous material results on the last toilet building has been received and forwarded
- Most summer worker positions were able to be filled with the new wage increase for summer workers.
- Planned meeting with the Eastern Upper Peninsula Trails Specialist and Indian Lake Pathway volunteer group is expected in August for trail improvements on the Indian Lake Pathway.
- Number of camp nights from Memorial weekend through the middle of July was up 8.0% at Indian Lake Southshore Campground from the same period in 2021.
- Shelter rentals and mini cabins remained nearly even over the same period.
- Had favorable remarks from Campers and Day Users from a Magic Show on July 8<sup>th</sup> and Reflection Band that played on July 9<sup>th</sup> that was organized by our Friends Group of Indian Lake and Palms Book.

### **Tahquamenon Falls State Park**

- Lower Falls Boat Concession/Island redevelopment project: The Lower Falls Pedestrian bridge opened to the public just prior to Memorial Weekend.
- Lower Falls Concession Store Remodel/Replacement project: The contractor has the foundations set for both the new park store and restroom building. They will be pouring the floor this week and start framing both structures in the coming weeks. The project is on-schedule so far, with substantial completion scheduled for Dec. 2022.
- Whitefish Point Harbor Phase 1 Improvements: Is in preliminary design and still awaits funding for construction. The project Team is aiming for baseline improvements that allow the site to meet ADA guidelines and allow for the new docks to be adjustable as Lake levels change.
- We are currently 3 full time STW positions short. We've also had trouble finding Campground Hosts for the State Forest Campgrounds this year.
- The Tahqua Trail run is scheduled for August 13<sup>th</sup>. This event is organized by Great Lakes Endurance LLC and features a 25K & 10K race. These races utilize the North Country Trail & Tahquamenon Falls State Park trail system and all end at the Upper Falls.
- State Park campgrounds have been full throughout July and are on track for another great year.
- State Forest Campgrounds and State Park Day-Use attendance have been slightly lower this year than in previous years.

### **Straits State Park & Mackinac Island State Harbor**

- Bids were accepted and a contractor was selected and awaiting ad board approval to hire them for Mackinac Island harbor toilet shower building.

- Bid were accepted and a contractor was selected and awaiting ad board approval to hire them for Straits State Park upper toilet shower buildings. ARPA money is being used for this project.
- Nearing the end of final design for the learning commons building at Father Marquette Park.
- Straits was able to fill most positions this summer. College staff will be done for the year very soon and we will be busy with the staff we have to get through Labor Day
- Mackinac Island harbor has been short staffed all season and has many hours of overtime especially during the annual sailing races.
- The annual sailing races took event on Mackinac Island the last 2 full weeks in July. The race went back to normal occupancy with rafting allowed in the harbor. Overall, the race went well but there will be more issues to work on in future races.
- Campground attendance remains very high but not as high as last year. Gas prices could be influencing some campers.
- Covid still remains a challenge.

### **Muskallonge Lake State Park**

- Some work was done at Headquarters Lake Equestrian campground. Picket poles were added to the day-use area and several campsites were widened and leveled to accommodate larger horse trailers.
- Short staffed with short term workers. Currently, only 6 of 11 positions are filled. This has created some operational challenges and adjustments, but staff is working hard to maintain our standards.
- Muskallonge Lake campground has been busy with attendance around the 5 year average. The Lake Superior Overlook Day-use has been above average in attendance with visitors hunting for agates and yooperlites.
- Lake Superior State Forest Campground has been full since Memorial Day. Blind Sucker Flooding campgrounds have seen heavy use so far this season as well as Perch Lake and Pretty Lake.
- Explorer Guide – Muskallonge Lake was able to pick up a short-term explorer guide position this season. Educational programs are being run 3 days a week. Attendance has been good at the programs, and it has been a great addition and well received by visitors.

### **Newberry Field Office**

- County Line BAS Improvements: Bidding for construction has been postponed until FY23 as the projected cost has exceeded available funding.
- Milakokia Lake BAS Improvements: Design has been completed and the project team awaits funding for construction, which could potentially happen in 2023.
- Road grading in the EUP has been ongoing
- The crew has prepared a site for a new hand pump well at the Mouth of the Two-Hearted State Forest Campground.
- The crew will be replacing vault toilets in the near future at The Mouth of the Two-Hearted Day use area and South Manistique State Forest Campground.
- Interviews for the Vacant Supervisor position will be held in August.
- The State Forest Campgrounds have been slower this year than previous years but are starting to pick up. Big Knob & Milakokia campgrounds have been the busiest.