



## Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

**Date of Production: June 2022**

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

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

May 20, 2022

Contact: [Ron Olson](#), 517-243-1477

#### ***DNR boosts state park seasonal worker pay to \$15 per hour***

Flexible scheduling, a woods-and-water workplace, making memories with a great team, forging connections with professionals who take care of fish, wildlife, state parks and forests – all while earning \$15 an hour? The Michigan Department of Natural Resource is hoping these perks, especially the new bump in pay, will encourage applicants to ask, “Where do I sign up?” and fill about 400 critical vacancies at state parks and harbors as the busy summer gets underway.

The DNR today announced it has increased the starting hourly rate for seasonal park workers to \$15, up from the old starting rate that ranged from \$10.20 to \$12 depending on region of the state and an applicant’s experience.

“We decided we needed to raise our hourly rate in order to stay competitive with other job opportunities for teens, young adults and retirees,” said DNR Parks and Recreation Chief Ron Olson. “Our seasonal summer workers are key to helping us provide great recreation experiences for every visitor. We think this rate increase will help, but we also want to remind people that we offer a positive work atmosphere and opportunities to explore a career in parks and recreation and natural resources management.”

Olson said seasonal park workers are the first line in shaping the customer experience. These frontline staff help answer visitor questions, register campers, clean park buildings, mow grass, maintain trails and help visitors create lifelong memories – all while learning valuable skills and important lessons about working as part of a team.

#### **Who is eligible**

The new \$15 hourly pay rate is effective Sunday, May 29, and is available to all new seasonal park worker hires, as well as those previously hired for this summer season. Olson said the department was able to make the hourly increase possible by reprioritizing some state parks funding.

The DNR is seeking about 400 people to complete the ranks of the 1,300 seasonal park workers needed every year to meet the needs of the highly anticipated summer travel season. The positions are flexible (up to 1,040 hours between April and October) and offer the opportunity to work through Oct. 15.

#### **How to apply**

It’s easy! The first step in the process is to express your interest at the [seasonal park workers webpage](#) via the [Michigan.gov/DNRJobs](#) website or by texting “Hire” to 80888. Complete the seasonal park worker interest form by providing your name, email, phone number and the work location(s) where you’re interested in working. It should take less than five minutes.

#### **Other perks**

These positions may qualify for academic or internship credit (applicants should contact their academic advisor for eligibility requirements). The DNR employs a variety of people who help take care of Michigan’s natural resources and connect more people to better, richer outdoor recreation experiences. Several of those professionals – park rangers, wildlife biologists, fisheries technicians, foresters, trails coordinators, conservation officers, marketing and



communications staff, education programmers, park interpreters and many, many others – got their start through seasonal positions at state parks.

If spending the summer outdoors and gaining one-of-a-kind experience toward an academic degree or a rewarding, long-term career path sounds right for you, visit [Michigan.gov/DNR/About/Careers/Park-Workers](http://Michigan.gov/DNR/About/Careers/Park-Workers) to express your interest and get the conversation started. Learn more about all of Michigan’s state parks and recreation areas at [Michigan.gov/StateParks](http://Michigan.gov/StateParks).

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

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|---------|---|
| June 7  | Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens’ Advisory Council, 6pm, LSSU in Sault Ste. Marie |
| June 8  | Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee, 2pm (call 517-284-6135)                  |
| June 8  | Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup, 10am (call 517-331-6219)                         |
| June 9  | Forest Compartment Review–Baraga Management Unit (call 906-201-4688)              |
| June 9  | Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing (call 517-599-1067)                 |
| June 13 | UP Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, Sault Ste. Marie (call 906-287-0800)           |
| June 14 | Michigan State Waterways Commission, 8:30am (call 517-285-0747)                   |
| June 15 | Michigan Board of Foresters, 9am (call 989-370-9557)                              |
| June 15 | Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, 9am (call 517-284-5954)              |
| June 17 | Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council, 8:30am (call 517-582-3220)             |
| June 23 | Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup, 10am (call 57-331-6219)                            |
| July 14 | Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing (call 517-599-1067)                 |
| July 20 | Western Upper Peninsula Citizens’ Advisory Council, 6pm, MTU in Houghton          |

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

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

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|----------------|---|
| 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  |
| June 13–Aug 19 | Fort Wilkins Historic State Park – Fort Wilkins 1870–A Living History Experience                |
| July 4         | Baraga State Park – 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Festivities   |
| July 22        | Michigan Iron Industry Museum – Iron Ore Heritage Bike Tour                                     |
| July 23        | Baraga State Park – Christmas in July   |
| 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!                                 |

## Other Good Information to Know

### Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- Stay safe over the holiday weekend with these tips (5/27/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: Recalling the Duck Lake Fire a decade later (5/26/22)
- DNR partners with McDonald's of Michigan for summer-long safe boating campaign (5/26/22)
- DNR receives metallic minerals lease application for Gogebic County (5/25/22)
- Share your thoughts with the DNR at upcoming meetings (5/24/22)
- The journey from stump to mill: Forest landowner management workshop (5/24/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: Celebrating 75 years of making boating better (5/20/22)
- Wild Times newsletter (5/20/22)
- DNR boosts seasonal park worker pay to \$15 per hour (5/20/22)
- Update: Blue Lakes Fire response in final mop-up stages (5/18/22)
- Michigan's scenic beauty to provide backdrop for new electric vehicle charging station options at state parks (5/13/22)
- Approved change to lake trout regulations for Lake Huron (5/13/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: Nature's intangibles (5/12/22)
- Honoring current, fallen conservation officers during National Police Week (5/12/22)
- HPAI confirmed in red fox kits from Lapeer, Macomb, St. Clair counties (5/12/22)
- 2022 fur harvesting updates (5/10/22)
- Decon, didymo and DIY: Get ready for summer with NotMISpecies webinars (5/10/22)

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### 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, <a href="mailto:carlockm@michigan.gov">carlockm@michigan.gov</a>
Recreation Passport Grant	Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, <a href="mailto:carlockm@michigan.gov">carlockm@michigan.gov</a>
Aquatic Habitat Grant	Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, <a href="mailto:parkerk4@michigan.gov">parkerk4@michigan.gov</a>
Michigan Invasive Species Grant	Kammy Frayre, 517-284-5970, <a href="mailto:frayrek1@michigan.gov">frayrek1@michigan.gov</a>
Wildlife Habitat Grant	Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, <a href="mailto:parkerk4@michigan.gov">parkerk4@michigan.gov</a>
U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant	Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, <a href="mailto:scullonh@michigan.gov">scullonh@michigan.gov</a>

## Western UPCAC Update

The **Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council** met on May 17<sup>th</sup> in person at the Marquette Township Community Center. A tour of the Marquette State Fish Hatchery was held earlier in the day for council members. The following agenda items were discussed:

- Division Updates and Follow-Up from Last Meeting by DNR Staff
- Benefits of Carbon Credits
- Clarification of Game Purchased Lands
- Hemlock Status
- Sportfishing Regulation Change Proposals (for 2023 Fishing Season, For Information)
- Deer Camp Survey Results
- Reports from Committee Meetings: Fisheries & Wildlife: Wildlife Committee stressed the need and importance for virtual options for elk orientation.
- The next WUPCAC meeting will be held on July 20<sup>th</sup> at the Michigan Tech in Houghton.
- More information on both the Western and Eastern CACs can be found at [www.michigan.gov/upcac](http://www.michigan.gov/upcac).

**Note: The June NRC Meeting will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup> in Lansing.**

The Natural Resources Commission met today at Crystal Mountain resort in Thompsonville. Director Dan Eichinger approved:

- [Discounted private and public land antlerless deer licenses in Deer Management Unit 487](#) in the northwest Lower Peninsula to help the department achieve objectives related to bovine tuberculosis management in deer.
- [An order prohibiting field dog trials using captive birds at the Ionia Recreation Area](#) because the movement of birds involved in that process could spread highly pathological avian influenza. The Ionia State Recreation Area is within a 10-mile radius of a commercial poultry operation.
- [State land review recommendations for Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Lapeer, Lenawee, Marquette, Monroe, Roscommon, Sanilac, and Washtenaw counties.](#) The review of state-managed public lands in these counties was part of the revision of the state's Managed Public Land Strategy, aimed in part at identifying parcels of land that might be isolated from other public lands and might be of little conservation and recreational value. Income from sale of such parcels can allow the department to acquire other land that is surrounded by state-managed public land and might have greater value. The review is being conducted 10 counties at a time. This is the fourth group of counties reviewed.
- Five land transactions. Details can be found linked within [the NRC agenda](#).

The commission approved:

- [Fisheries Order 253.22A](#), which reduces the daily possession limit from 3 lake trout and splake to 2 in MH-1, the northern-most fisheries management unit in 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. This change was made to achieve that goal.

### **Wildlife Committee**

Dwayne Etter from the Wildlife Division and David Williams from Boone and Crockett Quantitative Wildlife Center at Michigan State University finished [a presentation that began at last month's meeting](#) on the research the department conducts on chronic wasting disease in deer.

Acting Assistant Chief David Malloch of the Law Enforcement Division [told the committee about blood tracking big game \(deer, bear and elk\) with dogs](#). He discussed potential changes to regulations surrounding this practice.

### **Committee of the Whole**

The commission recognized three former natural resource commissioners. Director Eichinger noted the many hours commissioners devote to their duties on the commission, which is a volunteer post. The three commissioners recognized were:

- Vicki Pontz, who served from December 2013 to December 2019. Vicki was appointed as chair of the Natural Resources Commission in December 2017.
- Chris Tracy, who served from January 2017 to December 2020. Chris served as chair of the Marketing, Partnership, Youth and Outreach Advisory Committee.
- John Walters, who served from December 2017 to April 2020. John served on the Policy Committee on Finance and Administration.

Mark Spencer, president of the Furtakers of America, and Dale Hendershot of the Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association, presented their Trappers College Award to two DNR employees – Jon Wood of the Law Division and Angela Herban of the Wildlife Division. The Trappers College provides hands-on training for these employees, with some

of the best trappers as instructors. Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers, UP Trappers, and the Northern Great Lakes Fur Harvesters sponsor the DNR nominees' participation in the college.

Nicole Hunt from the Parks and Recreation Division reviewed [a number of proposed land use orders related to parks facilities](#). These orders (listed [in the NRC agenda](#)) grew out of a routine review PRD conducts of its land use orders to provide needed updates. The orders cover: Dark Sky Preserve operating hours; operational updates at North Higgins Lake State Park and the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center; equestrian campground use at certain state parks; and boating access site operations.

Chad Stewart of the Wildlife Division previewed a new proposed online reporting method for deer harvest. Harvest reporting is a key method of data collection for the department. Online harvest reporting will provide real-time information on how the deer season is progressing. The data will show regional/county deer management unit trends throughout the season. The new reporting method will provide more information on the timing of harvest and the type of deer being harvested. Last year, we piloted a voluntary harvest reporting system and received 6,861 reports. Under [proposed revisions to the Wildlife Conservation Order](#), online harvest reporting would be required of all hunters in the 2022 deer seasons. Hunters would have 72 hours to report their harvest. Enforcement in the first year would focus on educating hunters about this new regulation. Michigan would not be alone in requiring harvest reporting. Chad's presentation identified 10 other nearby states – Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin – where deer harvest reporting is currently mandatory.

A report on legislation affecting the department given to commissioners is listed below.

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### ***How to Participate in the NRC Meetings***

- If you're unable to attend the meeting but wish to submit written comments on agenda items, please write to: Natural Resources Commission, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909 or email: [nrc@michigan.gov](mailto:nrc@michigan.gov).
- If you would like further information or would like to address the Commission, please contact 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)).

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

#### **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 Natural Resources.
- 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.

#### **HBs 5358 (H-1), 5359 (H-1), 5360 – Provide Regulations for Commercial Hunting and Sport Fishing Guides – Reps.**

**Howell, Cherry and Martin:** These bills would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide for the licensure and regulation of commercial hunting and sport fishing guides and to provide the Natural Resources Commission with the exclusive authority to regulate hunting and fishing guides.

- The bills have been reported with recommendation by the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and are currently awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

**HB 6023 – Regulations for Mining of Gravel Operations – Rep. Damoose:** This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit the Department from charging a state department or local unit of government in this state for royalties for taking gravel from state owned lands.

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

**SB 955 – Repeal Wolf Management Advisory Council – Sen. McBroom:** This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to repeal the wolf management advisory council.

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

**SB 1003 – Definition of Peace Officer in ORV Laws – Sen. VanderWall:** This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to include the definitions of a peace officer in ORV laws.

- The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on 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 bills have been referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position 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](http://www.legislature.mi.gov).*

## Division Updates

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

Project Name: M-28 Indian Town West	Project Name: Trail 8 - 3 Bridges	Project Name: Bissel Creek Culvert	Project Name: Drummond Island - East Marblehead Clay Holes
Description: Create french drain and gravel	Description: Engineer and replace 3 bridges	Description: Engineer culvert replacement	Description: Grade and cap with stone
Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use:	Trail Use: ORV
Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion: 2025
2021 Q1 Update: Writing specs	2021 Q1 Update: Ready to have 50% design meeting for 1 bridge	2021 Q1 Update: Ready for 50% design meeting	2021 Q1 Update: Specs are done, get to DTMB for bidding
2021 Q2 Update: Getting out to MDOT for approval	2021 Q2 Update: RIF grant to supplement engineering, received approval to spend. Working on 90% engineering meeting.	2021 Q2 Update: EGLE authorization letter for permit. Had 90% meeting, a few minor changes. Clear to submit for EGLE permit.	2021 Q2 Update: Adjusting specs because of timber sale, was put out to bid, bids due early July.
2021 Q3 Update: Project on hold	2021 Q3 Update: Waiting on engineers for 90% meeting	2021 Q3 Update: Had 90% engineering meeting, a couple of changes, applying for EGLE permit	2021 Q3 Update: Bid awarded to contractor. Had pre-construction meeting. Being completed now.

2021 Q4 Update: Project on Hold	2021 Q4 Update: Working on 100% engineering of Melstrand Location and Start the Bear Trap location	2021 Q4 Update: Moving toward 100% engineering and ready for bid.	2021 Q4 Update: Change in weather to wetter conditions has slowed construction, may wait for freezing weather.
<b>2022 Q2 Update: Still on hold as far as I know.</b>	<b>2022 Q2 Update: In the process of awarding the bear trap crossing to an engineering co. May have enough funds to engineer the 3<sup>rd</sup> location but not enough to construct.</b>	<b>2022 Q2 Update: Additional funding needed to advertise for bids.</b>	
<b>Project Name: Ashmun Bay Trail Gravel</b>	<b>Project Name: Wetmore Hwy-13 Culvert</b>	<b>Project Name: 20th Street Culvert</b>	<b>Project Name: Headquarters Lake Equestrian Signs</b>
Description: Remove wood chips and cap with gravel 1/2 mile	Description: Extend culvert for trail	Description: Replace concrete culverts	Description: Signs & Canada Lakes brushing
Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: Multi use	Trail Use: Equestrian
Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion:	Anticipated Completion: 2021
2021 Q1 Update: Specs almost complete, get to DTMB for bidding	2021 Q1 Update: Review project request, select an engineer	2021 Q1 Update: Specs are done, get to DTMB for bidding	2021 Q1 Update: Building maps and gathering numbers, will be a brushing contract.
2021 Q2 Update: Was put out to bid and awarded to contractor	2021 Q2 Update: Funds will expire before completed, exploring options.	2021 Q2 Update: Working on getting an engineer assigned.	2021 Q2 Update: Maps complete, waiting on other trail maps to place order.
2021 Q3 Update: Bid awarded to contractor, need to contact for preconstruction meeting	2021 Q3 Update: N/A	2021 Q3 Update: Received engineering proposal and additional funds secured.	2021 Q3 Update: Signs received and ready to be installed
2021 Q4 Update: Complete	2021 Q4 Update:	2021 Q4 Update:	2021 Q4 Update: Planning install with staff
		<b>2022 Q2 Update: Project sent to DTMB</b>	<b>2022 Q2 Update: Working with local staff to finish this spring.</b>
<b>Project Name: Blind Sucker Pathway Boardwalk</b>	<b>Project Name: Millecoquins River Bridge</b>	<b>Project Name: Hemlock Ridge Road</b>	
Description: Rebuild boardwalk	Description: Snowmobile bridge footing replacement	Description: Hemlock Ridge Road holes	
Trail Use: Hiking	Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use: Multi Use	
Anticipated Completion: 2021	Anticipated Completion: 2022	Anticipated Completion: 10/30/2021	
2021 Q1 Update: Working on EGLE permit	Q1 Update: Met with pipeline specialist	Q1 Update:	

2021 Q2 Update: EGLE permit received, bids are out for materials.	Q2 Update: Selected a professional for engineering.	Q2 Update:	
2021 Q3 Update: Great Lakes Climate Corps has constructed the large boardwalk	Q3 Update: Engineering is in the 90% phase.	Q3 Update: Bid awarded, pre-construction meeting occurred	
2021 Q4 Update:	Q4 Update:	Q4 Update: Completed	
<b>2022 Q2 Update: Need a little more funding to finish the last boardwalk</b>	<b>2022 Q2 Update: Funding needed to move to construction phase</b>		

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

As always there has been plenty of activity to keep officers busy across the district, with things picking up as we roll into summer boating, fishing, and ORV activity. The promotional process has been completed for the Area 1 sergeant position and CO Mark Zitnik was the successful candidate and is now assigned to that role as the first line supervisor (Sgt) for Alger, Delta and Schoolcraft Counties. We are also moving forward with our next recruit school. Backgrounds and final interviews are currently being completed with an academy start date in July. Reports since our last CAC are shown below.

#### **DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 5-2-2022**

- **Acting Sgt. Chris Lynch** assisted local ORV instructors with an ORV safety class in Escanaba. Approximately 20 students were in attendance.
- **Sgt. Chris Lynch** was on patrol when he came across a truck parked near a river. Sgt. Lynch approached the truck and observed a handgun inside the cab of the vehicle. Sgt. Lynch located a single subject nearby and contacted the subject. The subject was setting up a target on a metal bridge pole and wanted to try out his new handgun. After determining the handgun was legally possessed, Sgt. Lynch educated the subject on appropriate back stops for target practicing.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Mark Zitnik** responded to two open burning complaints on a busy Saturday when there was a no burn day in order. The high winds pushed one fire into the adjacent woods and the fire department was called to put out the spreading fire. In both incidents the individuals were issued citations for burning on a no burn day and educated on what dry conditions with high winds can do to a fire.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** was patrolling his way home from the trout opener when he received a call from **PCO Marc Mankowski** who observed two anglers fishing in the closed section of Rock River. CO Zitnik and PCO Mankowski located the anglers who admitted to fishing in the closed section. The two fishermen were mistaken on the closure and were educated on the correct closer. Two citations were issued for fishing in a closed section of the stream due to spawning closures and one steelhead was seized.
- While checking smelt fishermen, **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Todd Bunce** observed a subject that appeared to have more than his 2-gallon limit. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the fisherman had 6 gallons of smelt in his possession. The 4 gallons of smelt that were over his limit were seized and a citation was issued.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Todd Bunce** received a complaint of a turkey hunter that had trespassed on a private field to shoot a turkey from the road. Upon arriving on the scene and interviewing witnesses, they stated that they were hunting in the corner of the field when they heard a shot. When they went to see where it came from, they observed a hunter run from the roadway and across the private field and grab a turkey. They were able to confront the hunter as he got back to his vehicle and get the turkey. The COs then interviewed the suspect who admitted to trespassing and shooting the turkey. After contacting the landowner and explaining what had happened, the landowner declined to press criminal charges on the suspect.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Todd Bunce** helped teach an ORV safety class to local kids. The COs educated the class on ORV laws in Michigan and answered questions. The kids enjoyed the class and were excited to be able to operate an ORV with their parents this summer.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and PCO Todd Bunce** assisted local public safety with a fully engulfed garage fire. The COs blocked a busy intersection by the fire to keep bystanders and vehicles away. The garage appeared to be a total loss.



- **COs Brandon Maki and Todd Sumbera** were patrolling Drummond Island when they observed two individuals on the Potagannissing River which was closed to any fishing. As the COs moved closer to the subjects it was found that they were catching walleye with their hands and a small net. Upon making contact the individuals set down a bucket with 6 walleyes in it. One subject stated he was just looking to get a meal but knew it was a stupid choice. The subjects were fishing a closed stream, using illegal methods to take fish, fishing without a license and taking walleye in a closed season. A report is being compiled and sent to the Chippewa County Prosecutor for requested charges.
- **COs Todd Sumbera, Cole VanOosten, Rob Freeborn and PCO Todd Bunce** were patrolling the Carp River during a recent smelt run when they observed an individual dipping smelt off by himself. After approximately 20 minutes the subject packed up to head out with approximately 5 gallons of smelt. PCO Todd Bunce contacted the subject and addressed the over limit of smelt. The subject was issued a citation for possessing an over limit of smelt.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was checking fishermen on the pier in Hessel when he came across an individual that was fishing without a license. The individual's excuse was that he did not know when his prior license expired. CO Sumbera asked the man what the date was for needing a new license and he responded April 1<sup>st</sup>. The man was issued a citation for fishing without a license.
- **COs Mike Olesen, CO Todd Sumbera, CO Cole Vanoosten, CO Justin Vincent, CO Mark Zitnik, Sgt. Calvin Smith, and acting 2<sup>nd</sup>/Lieutenant Kevin Postma** attended a training exercise in the Straights of Mackinac that was focused on the response to an active shooter/ mass casualty incident on a ferry boat between Mackinac Island and St. Ignace. Training was done on retrieving and transporting individuals to the proper area for medical care, the tactical clearing of a transport vessel, and medical care of individuals wounded from gunshot wounds.
- **CPLs Brett Delong, Tom Peterson and CO Cole VanOosten** were on patrol of Mackinac County during smelt runs. The officers observed two individuals netting smelt. It was clear that one of the individuals was doing the majority of the fishing. Officers observed the one individual catch about 4 gallons of smelt and put them in a 5-gallon bucket. The other individual caught approximately a gallon of smelt. It was determined that the fishermen had a large cooler hidden in the back of their vehicle with additional smelt. In total the two fishermen had 14 gallons of smelt, 10 gallons over the limit. Additionally, one man did not have a fishing license. Citations were issued to the individuals for Overlimit of Smelt and Fishing without a license.
- **CPLs Brett Delong, Tom Peterson and CO Cole VanOosten** were on patrol of Mackinac County when they contacted two individuals returning from a night of smelt dipping. The individuals had two large buckets of smelt (Approximately 9 gallons). The fishermen stated that they were just catching two limits because the first limit was caught before midnight. The CO's Informed the two fishermen that is not how it works and that in order to catch a limit the following day the previous days limit must be processed (Canned, cured by smoking or drying, or frozen). A citation was issued to one of the men for possession of an overlimit of smelt
- **CO VanOosten** was on patrol when he received a complaint of an individual burning a brush pile during a burn ban. When CO Vanoosten arrived on scene the individual was not attending the fire, had used a tire to start the fire and had two other tires on the brush pile that had not yet burned. A citation was issued for burning when prohibited and warnings were issued for unlawful disposal of tires and for not attending a fire.
- **COs Justin Vinson, Cole Vanoosten, Sgt. Calin Smith, and Lt. Skip Hagy** worked smelt fishermen on the Carp River. The smelt run was slow, but several fishermen were trying their luck and one individual was cited for fishing without a license.

#### **DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 5-16-2022**

- **CO Andrea Dani** received a call from the Shingleton Unit Forest Fire Supervisor in reference to a contact the fire staff made that day, where an individual was open burning illegal building materials including vinyl siding and insulation on a no burn day and informed him the fire needed to be extinguished. When CO Dani arrived at the suspect's residence later that day, the fire was still burning with open flame and the suspect had taken no action to extinguish the fire. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Andrea Dani** responded to a call of recreational trespass near the West Branch of the Whitefish River. CO Dani observed the anglers fishing, when they were done, they exited the private property near their truck by walking around a gate and a no trespassing sign. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Andrea Dani and CO Mark Zitnik** responded to a campground in Christmas for the report of a dead owl. The COs documented the scene then turned it over to the Wildlife biologist for examination.
- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint of a hunter who had shot another hunters turkey decoy. CO Butzin responded to the area and was able to conduct a traffic stop on the suspects' vehicle. Upon further investigation it was discovered that the individual who shot the decoy was an elderly gentleman that had made a mistake when he shot the jake decoy. The individual was educated on the importance of knowing your target and what is beyond it.
- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint of a fire containing unlawful materials to burn in Ford River Township. CO Butzin responded to the location and discovered an individual at the residence was responsible for burning a large quantity of household trash and various building materials. A report has been submitted to the 94<sup>th</sup> District Court requesting a charge of unlawful disposal of solid waste.

- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol in Ford River Township when he encountered several individual fishing without licenses. One of the individuals attempted to provide a Minnesota fishing license stating it was valid in Michigan. CO Butzin explained that this out of state license was not valid for Michigan waters. The individual was cited for fishing without a Michigan fishing license.
- **Sgt. Mark Zitnik and CO Steve Butzin** patrolled the waters of Little Bay de Noc on the walleye opener. There were a fair number of walleye and perch being caught and it seemed the fish appeared to be larger on average than years past. Several citations were issued to individuals during the patrol for fishing without a license, possession of undersize walleye, as well as failing to provide a personal flotation device. Overall, the bite was good, and the fishermen were happy for the beautiful weather.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was on patrol when a call for an unresponsive 2-year-old child came out. CO Lynch responded to the call and arrived on scene with the Delta County Sherriff Department. The child suffered a seizure and care for the child was administered until EMS arrived on scene. The child was turned over to EMS and fortunately shortly after the child was responsive and then transported to the hospital for further care.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** conducted a flag posting detail at the burial site and in honor of fallen Conservation Officer Thomas J. Mellon who passed away in the Line of Duty for National Police Week.
- **CO Michael Evink** conducted an ORV patrol for illegal operation on State Highway M-94. Within 10 minutes of beginning the patrol CO Evink observed two side by sides operating on the shoulder of the highway. When they saw CO Evink, they attempted to hide on private property. CO Evink located the side by sides. CO Evink Issued a ticket to one operator for no ORV license and gave both warnings for ORV trespass and operate on a state highway.
- **CO Mike Evink** participated in the Upper Peninsula Law Enforcement memorial processional and service. The ceremony was held at Manistique High School. Each year the ceremony is held in a different city in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.
- **CO Mike Evink** assisted Manistique Public safety locate an elderly dementia patient. He had walked off from his residence but was located within an hour.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were on ORV patrol when they observed a side by side being operated without a valid ORV license. A stop was made on the ORV and the operator claimed that he had purchased a license but forgot it in his truck. A citation was issued for failing to display an ORV license.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** received a complaint from the Report all Poaching (RAP) hotline regarding two fishermen who had caught a very large snapping turtle on shore as it was laying eggs then put it in a box in the back of their vehicle during the closed season. CO VanOosten responded and located the suspects who initially tried telling him that they had caught the turtle but released it. It was determined that the snapping turtle had been killed and the individuals planned on eating it. CO VanOosten seized several parts of the turtle, and a report was compiled requesting charges for taking a turtle out of season with the Chippewa County Prosecutors Office.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol of Mackinac County when he located a group of individuals spearing a small creek where complaints of illegal walleye spearing had been received. CO VanOosten contacted 3 members of the group who had several buckets full of suckers that they had speared. The individuals stated that they had not seen any walleye and that they had not speared any. CO VanOosten began walking the riverbank and located a freshly speared walleye that was still alive and had been placed in the woods. When confronted about the walleye all members of the group stated that they knew nothing about it. Through further investigations and interviews it was determined that a member of the group had speared the fish and placed it in the woods. A report was generated and submitted to the Mackinac County Prosecutors Office for taking a walleye out of season and taking a walleye with an illegal method.
- **COs Cole Vanoosten and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were on patrol when they came across a couple of fishermen trying their luck. When asked to provide a fishing license neither individual could produce one. A quick license check revealed that neither fisherman had purchased a 2022 fishing license. A citation was issued for fishing without a license.
- While on ORV patrol on Drummond Island, **CO Todd Sumbera and PCO Jacob Daniel** encountered several ORV violations that consisted of operating without a seatbelt/helmet, no ORV license, and open intoxicants in an ORV. Citations were issued for all the violations.
- **COs Todd Sumbera and PCO Jacob Daniel** received a call from the Sault Ste. Marie City Police Department about a suspect that had trapped a fox out of season. The city officers were able to release the fox from the trap and seized two traps that the suspect had set. CO Sumbera and PCO Daniel interviewed the suspect the following day who admitted to setting the traps with hope of catching the fox that he had captured on his trail camera. A report was sent to the Chippewa County Prosecutors Office seeking charges for trapping fox out of season, two charges for untagged traps and trapping without a license.
- **COs Mike Olesen and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were on marine patrol near Sugar Island when they noticed a large plume of smoke coming from a nearby residence. After further investigation the COs found an individual that was burning a large brush pile. With the extreme dry conditions, no burn permits were being issued. A citation was issued for burning without a permit.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Mike Olesen** worked Munuscong bay for the walleye opener and noted compliance was high for fishing and marine regulations. The COs did come across a couple vessels that had failed to provide personal floatation devices (PFDs) and one vessel that was operating with an expired registration. Citations were issued for the violations.

- **CO Justin Vinson** observed a group of ORV's operating on M-28 near the town of Strongs. A stop was made, and citations were issued for operating an ORV on a state highway.

## **EUP Wildlife Division: Dave Jentoft, Wildlife Biologist-Sault Ste. Marie**

### **Nuisance Wildlife Complaints**

- Spring is often a busy time for nuisance complaints as animals become more active and food sources for some are in limited supply.
- Numerous calls have been received and handled by staff by providing advice and information to help resolve the situation as well as issuing permits where necessary.
- Bear complaints have been received, and many are resolved by removing potential food sources food sources and attractants, such as taking down bird feeders and securing garbage.

### **Baby Animals**

- It is common in the spring and summer to find baby animals, including fawns, that appear to be left alone in the wild.
- Many calls come in each year from people that find a baby animal and want to help.
- Many animals, including deer, will hide their young for safety, and will return. It is not uncommon for deer to leave their fawns unattended for hours at a time.
- In most cases, the best thing people can do to help is to leave the animal alone. If a fawn is found alone, do not touch it. Give it plenty of space and leave the area quickly. The mother will likely return when she feels it is safe, but may not return if people or dogs are present.

### **Wildlife Disease Update – Avian Influenza**

- Avian influenza, or bird flu, this is an influenza type A virus that occurs naturally in wild water birds (ducks, geese, swans, and shorebirds), and domestic poultry. However, other birds and mammal species can also become infected. One subtype, the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) can cause severe symptoms resulting in high mortality in domestic birds.
- The current outbreak (2021-22) of HPAI is affecting wild and domestic birds throughout much of the US, including Michigan.
- In an effort to detect this virus in wild birds, the DNR is performing passive surveillance, meaning that we are testing wild birds that were found dead. The emphasis is on testing highly susceptible groups of birds such as waterfowl, raptors, and scavengers.
- We are sampling using a watershed-based approach where we collect and test birds from within a given watershed boundary and once sufficient detections have been made in that region, we distribute our sampling resources to other parts of the state. This is more efficient than testing birds at the county level and ensures that we have adequate representation around the state. We will continue to test birds from areas of public health concern, in close proximity to domestic birds, and high-profile species or situations.
- This virus primarily affects birds, but it is important to remember that it can be a zoonotic disease or a disease transmitted from domestic or wild animals to humans. You should avoid handling any sick or dead wild birds, but if it is necessary to move a dead bird, use a plastic bag or shovel to do so and wash your hands thoroughly after. You may also report them to wildlife professionals who can offer guidance.
- We welcome reports or observations of unusual or unexplained deaths among wild birds or sick, dead or neurologically abnormal foxes to local field offices or calling the Wildlife Disease Lab at 517-336-5030. We also encourage reports through the DNR's Eyes in the Field app. Choose the "diseased wildlife" reporting option.

### **Wildlife Surveys**

Numerous surveys have been conducted in April and May. Results are still being analyzed for many. Below is a summary of surveys conducted.

- Snow monitoring – monitoring of snow depths begins Nov. 1 and ends Apr. 30. Staff monitor snow depths and duration of snow based on data available from the NOAA. The winter of 2021-22 saw deeper snow for a longer duration than in 2020-21, although the '20-'21 winter was a mild winter. Preliminary results suggest that the winter

was tracking near the long-term average until March when snow melt was then delayed compared to average – some late winter snowfall contributed to the lingering snow, which is often the case.

- Deer – an assessment of fawns and adults was conducted soon after deer left wintering areas to assess survival. Results are not yet available.
- Sharp-tailed grouse – surveys are conducted in April and early May to assess activity at leks, or breeding display sites. Results are not yet available.
- American woodcock – the DNR takes part in the signing-ground survey, a national survey conducted by the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). Results are reported to the USFWS who analyze on a regional (Eastern and Central – Michigan is in the Central Region) and state level. These results will not be available for some time. Central Region results from 2021 were similar to 2020, but results have declined 2.06% over the past 10 years and there has been a long-term decline of 0.92% in the Central Region since 1968.
- Ruffed grouse – drumming surveys were restarted in 2022. They had not been conducted in a number of years. Results are not yet available.
- Waterfowl – a statewide spring breeding survey is conducted following migration, but before leaf-on. This is an aerial survey using fixed-winged aircraft that was concluded recently. Like some other surveys, results will not be available for a while.
- Wolf trapping is being conducted as a way to radio-collar animals to help with future census estimates. Priority is given to packs in areas that are being surveyed during the next census effort.

## **Projects**

- Work continues by Newberry staff on the Silver Creek Birding Trail in Luce Co. and also the Shore-to-Shore Birding Trail spanning Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac counties from Lake Superior to Lake Michigan. A grand opening for the Shore-to-Shore Birding Trail is being planned for mid-August.
- Newberry staff continue to work on the GRLI (great lakes restoration initiative) grant received for Blind Sucker with plans for wild rice planting this fall, as well as informational kiosks and a wildlife recreation trail. This latter work will be completed by August 2023.
- Shingleton staff are doing white spruce plantings for windbreaks/screens on planted openings, and are starting food plot work in June, totaling 62 acres of clover/winter rye in local Deer Wintering Complexes. Staff also will be in the initial (reclaiming, rye plantings) of a multi-year project to establish 77 acres of Native Warm Season Grasses near the Garden GEMS.
- Staff in all units are working on GEMS, including trail maintenance and plantings.

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

### **Timber Sales**

- Spring break-up drug on a little longer than usual this year. Many loggers were taking their time cutting sales to try to delay until weight restrictions were lifted. Now that restrictions are lifted loggers have moved on to other sales. Bark slippage season is upon us so harvesting in the hardwoods has slowed while and loggers have moved into pine sales and sales where the timber will be clearcut.
- Since the last meeting, 19 timber sales were advertised in the EUP. The Shingleton FMU did not advertise any timber sales during this time. The Newberry FMU advertised 15 timber sales, 1 of those sales went no-bid and 4 of these sales are yet to have the bids opened. The Sault FMU advertised 4 timber sales, 1 of those sales went no bid but was eventually purchased at minimum bid prices.
- There are currently 4 prospectuses advertised in the EUP containing 10 timber sales. These sales will be sold in the months of May and June.
- Timber sale preparation activities are starting to pick up both for DNR staff and our contractors. With the end of spring fire season drawing near, staff will have more time to spend in the field working on the 2022 plan of work.

### **Forest Inventory**

- About 50% of the compartments in the 2024 YOE have been completed and are ready for Pre-Review. Pre-review meetings are scheduled for the end of July and beginning of August. These meetings bring together all of the

divisions of the DNR responsible for managing State Forest Land to discuss management activities being proposed before posting for public review.

- 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 operations are underway in the EUP.
- Planting is completed in the EUP with a total of 1500 acres being planted with over 1 million seedlings. These seedlings were a mix of red pine and jack pine. The Sault Unit staff also planted about 900 seedlings of red and white pine along the Algonquin Pathway.
- Current plans for 2022:
  - About 600 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 180 acres of precommercial thinning will be done to release red pine and oak.
  - DNR staff will roller chop 900 acres along with over 980 acres of anchor chain scarification and 1500 acres of trenching.
  - There are 7 prescribed burns planned for 2022 totaling 370 acres.
- The DNR is looking to establish red pine seed orchards throughout the state. There are several sites in the EUP being looked at for this project.

### **Fire**

- Spring fire season has been busy across the up with 48 statistical fires burning 112 acres and 32 non-reportable fires as of May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The wind event on May 9 was a particularly busy day as multiple power line fires were started across the area. Fire personnel across the UP were shifted around to help fight the fires.
- Several staff from the EUP assisted the southern lower peninsula compete prescribed burns.
- Fires staff from the Sault FMU responded to the Blue Lakes Fire in the Atlanta FMU which burned approximately 2500 acres.
- Very High fire danger was experience for 14 days of the month at several stations. The month of May is a critical period when most fuels are still dry from overwintering and highly susceptible to ignition. Over the past week spring rains have started to mitigate some of the elevated fire danger as the forest floor begins to green.

### **Road and Bridge**

- With spring comes road wash outs and beaver issues. Staff are assessing conditions and gearing up to work on projects once green up is declared and fire danger is lower.

### **Facilities**

- Flooring upgrades at the Shingleton office have been delayed due to asbestos abatement needs.

### **Good Neighbor Authority**

- The GNA Survey project wrapped up and an AAR was conducted with those involved to find ways to make that work more efficient and effective in the future.
- 2 GNA timber sales on the East zone of the Hiawatha were advertised for bids and were sold.
- Timber sale preparation activities are ongoing across the Hiawatha by both DNR staff and contractors.

### **Land use**

- EUP Staff are working with the Trespass Specialist to resolve historic trespass cases involving gates, cabins and other items on state land.
- Several land use permits were reviewed that crossed multiple units.

## **Forest Certification**

- Internal forest certification audits will be held in June. This year the Shingleton Unit will be audited.
- The audit will focus on compliance with certification work instructions, implementation of wildlife specification and monitoring of natural regeneration.

## **Vacancies**

- The EUP Inventory and Planning specialist position has been posted and interviews will be held in early June.
- Temporary Fire Officers were hired at the Seney and Sault Ste Marie offices.
- The EUP Private Lands Forester continues to be filled with someone who is Working Out of Class, allowing valuable experience to be gained by division staff while keeping necessary projects and tasks moving forward.

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

- Education staff is wrapping up the spring school program season (mid-April through the first week of June) hosting almost 17,000 school children for field trips and conservation education programming at 10 DNR Visitor Centers around the state. School field trip numbers are back to pre-COVID levels at most sites. Bus drivers are the biggest hurdle for most school districts.
- 52 Seasonal Interpreters (State Workers) have been recruited, hired and trained to support Visitor Center operations around the state.
- The Explorer Program is in full swing at 25 State Parks around the state including U.P. sites: Indian Lake State Park, Wells State Park, Van Riper State Park, Baraga State Park, Muskallunge Lake State Park and McClain State Parks. Seasonal Interpreters were hired and spent a week training at the Ralph McMullan Center in Roscommon learning the fundamentals of leading all kinds of nature-based campground programs for summer visitors. Through the summer, this group of energetic employees will present about 2,000 programs for more than 40,000 visitors statewide.
- The Pocket Park at the State Fair Grounds in Escanaba is getting some renovation. The Education Building will have new siding, the ranges, docks, bridges and fire tower will have a new coat of stain and other improvements before the State Fair in August. Staff has been busy cleaning up from winter and completing training on range operations and fishing instruction. The park will be open Monday through Friday from 10-5 all summer and through many weekend events. Like every other year, we are looking for volunteers to help teach archery, shooting sports and fishing during the State Fair Week in August.
- “Arrows Away” - The department’s archery education program offers introductory programming every week through Labor Day weekend at 10 sites around the state. Details can be found at [Michigan.gov/arrowsaway](http://Michigan.gov/arrowsaway)
- “Hook, Line and Sinkers” programs are again placing a weekly emphasis on fishing this summer at more than twenty sites around the state. Details can be found at: [michigan.gov/hooklineandsinker](http://michigan.gov/hooklineandsinker)

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

- Customer Service Centers are fully operational Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm, as well as Naubinway and Sault St. Marie. Updated COVID preparedness plans have been put into place.
- Progress continues to be made with the planning and construction process for the new Newberry Customer Service Center. 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.
- **Three Free Weekend:** Free Fishing Weekend on June 11 & 12, 2022 is held in conjunction with "Three Free" weekend, where residents and nonresidents can grab a fishing rod, ride the off-road trails and visit state parks and boating access sites - all free of charge. During Free ORV Weekend, Michigan residents and visitors legally can ride without buying an ORV license or trail permit. All other ORV rules and laws still apply. For more information about Free ORV Weekends, visit [Michigan.gov/ORVInfo](http://Michigan.gov/ORVInfo).

### **June & July Season Date Reminders**

- 6/1 Deadline to apply for Bear and Elk hunts
- 6/4 Muskie possession season opens
- 6/11-12 Free Fishing Weekend, Free ORV Weekend and Free State Park Weekend
- 6/18 Bass possession season opens on Lake St. Clair, St. Clair R, Detroit R, Boundary Waters.
- 7/1 May apply for Fall Turkey hunts
- 7/5 Bear & Elk Drawing results posted on Web site
- 7/8 Dog Training opens; may also use dogs for night hunting (see Fur Digest)
- 7/15 May apply for the U.P. Antlerless Deer Access Permits (*Can also apply for Reserved Deer Hunts*)
- 7/15 Opener for Turtle seasons (Snappers and Softshells), see p. 22)
- 7/16 Sturgeon opener (for list of open waterbodies/regulations, see p. 15)

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

- The DNR's Showcasing the DNR feature story series is published each Thursday. Stories are currently being scheduled for issue from the second week in July 2022 through the end of January 2023. To see the story archive visit [Michigan.gov/DNRStories](https://Michigan.gov/DNRStories). Please send story ideas and offers to contribute to the increasingly popular statewide series to me at [pepinj@michigan.gov](mailto:pepinj@michigan.gov).
- Lots of media coverage expected as we head into the summer season. Big stories will include improvements at state parks.

### **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 will mobilize on July 18<sup>th</sup>, with construction lasting until November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Brimley Toilet/Shower building replacement: Construction continues.... plumbing/hvac nearly complete in all 3 buildings. Last week started pouring walkways and site landscaping. Project is still on schedule for completion date of June 22, 2022.
- Summer worker position hiring is ongoing. Brimley needs two more workers & DeTour/Lime needs 3-4 more to be fully staffed
- The vacant DeTour Ranger A was filled with Colton Lange. Working on backfilling the vacant Seasonal Ranger position caused by his promotion.
- Brimley: Campground has been closed since September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, for construction of Toilet/shower buildings and will tentatively open by June 22, 2022.
- DeTour State Harbor opened on May 15, 2022. A handful of seasonal slip holders have shown up.
- Lime Island Recreation Area is scheduled to open on June 6, 2022.
- Munuscong & DeTour SFCG's are off to a slow start so far, with only a few campers.
- Still working on getting applicants to fill summer worker positions
- Ranger staff have been working on campground clean-up/Spring projects at Brimley, DeTour Harbor, SFCG's & BAS.
- Corey Butcher (Brimley Supervisor), Ben Travis (PRD Stewardship) & Jason Garvon (LSSU Professor) visited Lime Island May 11<sup>th</sup> for Common Tern pre-nesting maintenance on the Lime Coal Dock. Many Gulls, a few pair of Common Terns & 40-50 Caspian Terns were observed. Nesting site was mowed, 4 game cameras set up & a fence was installed to protect the nesters.
- Ranger Staff and Supervisor have been busy on-boarding/training seasonal worker staff.
- Brimley received Green Initiatives funding to replace remaining fluorescent tube lighting with LED tubes in the BSP HQ building, Cold Storage building, Contact station & Picnic Shelter/Day Use Restroom building. DeTour Harbor/Lime Island received funding to purchase battery powered weed whips and chainsaws.

### **Fayette Historic State Park**

- **Townsite:** General reactionary maintenance to window sashes, doors, locks, siding, etc. Restoration work to back porch & siding on Hotel Phase 1 almost complete.
- **Park:** Pick up & remove massive number of sticks, limbs and blown forest debris from all visitor areas. Finish remodeling of The Company Store within Visitor Center. Water Treatment Plant Phase 1 upgrades completed.
- Bringing aboard new & returning seasonal workers.
- Gearing up for busy season.
- Unseasonably cold spring caused a few frozen fittings as we turned on water systems for the season.

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

- Palms Book septic replacement project had a pre-bid walk through on May 4<sup>th</sup> and bids were due May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Palms Book had the remaining metal sheeting removed from the bottom pods of raft because a failure to hold due to sediment build up.
- Indian Lake had hazardous material inspection done on the third toilet shower bathroom and waiting on results.
- Palms Book Parking lot improvement project is moving forward.
- Hiring of summer staff has been challenging but with the new wage increase for seasonal worker 4's, hoping to finish filling missing positions.
- Delta County Sheriff's Department Dive Team conducted their annual bottom of the Big Springs cleanup/training in May.
- North Country Trail is looking at option of connecting the trail to Wagner Falls.

### **Tahquamenon Falls State Park**

- Lower Falls Boat Concession/Island Redevelopment Project: We are hopeful the Bridge/Island trail improvements will pass inspection and open to the public for Memorial Weekend.
- Lower Falls Concession Store Remodel/Replacement Project: The contractor has demolished the old structure and is preparing to pour the foundations in the coming weeks. The project is on-schedule so far, with substantial completion scheduled for Dec. 2022.
- Whitefish Point Harbor Phase 1 Improvements: In preliminary design and still awaiting 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 have filled all but two seasonal worker positions.
- All career positions are filled & stable for the moment.
- The Two-Hearted Trail Run is scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup>. This event is organized by Great Lakes Endurance LLC and features a 50K, Marathon, & Half-Marathon race. These races utilize the North Country Trail & Tahquamenon Falls State Park trail system and all end at the Upper Falls.
- All campgrounds are open and functional for the 2022 camping season.

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

- Pre-bid meeting scheduled for Mackinac Island Harbor toilet shower building on June 2.
- Pre-bid meeting scheduled for Straits upper toilet shower building replacements June 1.
- Father Marquette is nearing the end on design for a new learning center and powwow grounds.
- We have improved a couple of our sites that get wet and muddy by scraping off topsoil, leveling and replacing with Afton stone surface.
- Hiring summer staff is still very difficult. If you know of anyone looking to work for the parks, please send them our way. Staff pay was increased to \$15 an hour but we still have barely enough staff to squeak by.
- Memorial weekend has a few openings on Friday and Sunday but currently Saturday is full.
- It appears by the number 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 are all back to work.
- Interviews and recruiting for seasonal worker positions is ongoing. It has been a difficult year for hiring, but hopeful a new wage rate will help with recruitment.
- The snow is gone and water samples are complete. All campgrounds are open for the season.
- The Friends of Muskallonge State Park recently installed a GaGa ball pit in the day use area.

### **Newberry Field Office**

- County Line BAS Improvements: The project team asked the Professional Services Consultant to update the estimated cost for the project, which resulted in a substantial projected cost increase due to current market conditions. Therefore, this project will likely be put on hold until market conditions change OR more funding is allocated for the project.
- Milakokia Lake BAS Improvements: Design has been completed and the project team awaits funding for construction, which could potentially happen in 2023.
- Most BAS & State Forest Campground roads in the EUP have been graded in preparation for the 2022 use season.
- All State Forest Campgrounds have passed pre-opening water sampling requirements and are open for the season.
- Skid piers have been installed for the season.
- Staff have cleaned out fire rings and are starting to cut grass at all sites.
- The vacant supervisor position has been posted again.
- We still have 1 vacant seasonal worker position.
- Campgrounds are open, with limited camp nights thus far. We are expecting a busy Memorial Holiday weekend.

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

#### **Unit Update**

- Newberry technicians conducted a walleye population estimate on North Manistique Lake, Mackinac County. The final estimates were not available at the completion of this summary.
- Newberry technicians assisted on the Lake Gogebic walleye population estimate in early May. Two crews handled 70+ nets for one week marking and recapturing walleye. The final estimates were not available at the completion of this summary.
- Newberry technicians conducted a Status and Trends survey on Arbutus Lake, Chippewa County. The survey captured only central mudminnow indicating that Arbutus Lake experience winterkill conditions frequently preventing the presence of any game species. Arbutus Lake has a maximum depth of 8 feet.
- Newberry Fisheries staff finished deployment of water temperature loggers throughout the Eastern Upper Peninsula lakes and streams. Monitoring stream and lake temperatures help Fisheries Division identify trends in local water bodies and their associated aquatic communities.
- In late April, Fisheries staff clipped splake at the Marquette State Fish Hatchery. A total of 22,064 splake were clipped. These fish were sent to Copper Harbor. As a reminder, all splake stocked by MDNR in Lake Superior are fin clipped. An ongoing study is being conducted by MDNR to evaluate splake stocking and return to creel is occurring on Lake Superior through 2030. To report your marked fish please visit [Marked and Tagged Fish \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/MarkedandTaggedFish)
- Oden State Fish Hatchery stocked brown trout in the Tahquamenon River between the upper and lower Falls. Brown trout have traditionally been stocked here by using the students from Whitefish Township schools in Paradise at the Upper Gorge Stairway. Due to COVID restrictions in 2020 and 2021 for the students and DNR staff, the students were not able to assist with the stocking event. This year, students were again able to assist with stocking the 4,000 Wild Rose strain brown trout. Brown trout stocking with students has occurred between the Falls since the 1950's.
- Anglers are reminded and encouraged to complete the Online Muskellunge Angler Survey for their muskie catches and targeted muskie trips. Since 2014, this survey has gathered information about muskie angler demographics and

catch data, such as length of fish caught, angler effort, body of water fished and methods used. Fisheries managers have used this data to recommend fishing regulation changes to the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, evaluate the muskie stocking program and understand more about self-sustaining populations. You may fill this out for every trip you make where you target or catch a muskie. Go to [Michigan.gov/Muskie](https://Michigan.gov/Muskie) to complete the survey and see past survey data.

- The muskellunge harvest season opener begins June 4<sup>th</sup>. If you harvest a muskellunge, the registration line is 888-636-7778 and the reporting weblink is [Michigan.gov/RegisterFish](https://Michigan.gov/RegisterFish). Lake sturgeon season begins on July 16, for select waters. See the 2022 Michigan Fishing Guide for additional seasons and length restrictions. Reminder that muskellunge and lake sturgeon have a harvest limit of 1 per angler per license year.