



Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: February 2023 (information current as of 2/8/23)

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

UP Field Deputy Update – Stacy Haughey

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2, 2023

Governor Whitmer Makes Appointments to University Governing Boards, Other Boards and Commissions

LANSING, Mich. — Today, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced the following appointments to the Central Michigan University Board of Trustees, Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents, Ferris State University Board of Trustees, Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees, Northern Michigan University Board of Trustees, Western Michigan University Board of Trustees, Mackinac Straits Corridor Authority, **Natural Resources Commission**, Michigan Tax Tribunal, and Michigan Women's Commission.

Natural Resources Commission

David Nyberg, of Marquette, has served as the Executive Director of Business Engagement and Economic Development at Northern Michigan University since 2018. Prior to his current position he served as the Director of Governor Snyder's Northern Michigan office. He holds a Juris Doctorate and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, both from Michigan State University. Mr. Nyberg is reappointed to represent Independents for a term commencing February 2, 2023, and expiring December 31, 2026.

John Walters, of Gaylord, is the Territory Sales Manager for Palmer Donavin. Prior to this, he held similar roles for Capital Lumber, Roseburg Forest Products, and Weyerhaeuser. Walters served on the Natural Resources Commission from 2018 to 2020 and was chair of the Fisheries and Wildlife committee during that time. He also served on the Rural Development Fund Board and the Natural Resources Advisory Council under Governor Snyder. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Northern Michigan University. Mr. Walters is appointed to represent Republicans for a term commencing February 2, 2023, and expiring December 31, 2026. He succeeds Keith Creagh whose term has expired.

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) has exclusive authority to regulate the taking of game and sportfish and is authorized to designate game species and authorize the establishment of the first open season for animals through the issuance of orders.

These appointments are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

Meetings/Events/Press Releases

Please feel free to share this list of events with everyone!! With all the amazing things happening in the U.P., let's help spread the word. 😊

DNR Public Meetings

For virtual or conference call meeting information, please go to the DNR website at: www.michigan.gov/DNRMeetings and click on the appropriate meeting and/or agenda for instructions.

February 9	Natural Resources Commission – 9 am (517-331-7792)
February 10	Michigan State Waterways Commission – 9 am (517-285-0747)
February 15	Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council Virtual Work Session – 6pm (906-225-1331)
February 15	Equine Trails Subcommittee – 1 pm (517-331-6219)
February 15	Natural Resources Trust Fund Board – 9 am (517-284-5954)

February 17	Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council – 8:30 am (517-582-3220 or 517-284-5876)
February 22	Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee – 2 pm (517-284-6135)
February 22	Off-road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup – 1 pm (517-331-6219)
February 23	Michigan Wildlife Council – 10:30 am (517-284-6056)
March 9	Natural Resources Commission – 9 am (517-331-7792)
March 21	Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, Marquette (906-226-1331)

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

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

February 10-12	Midwest Telefest 2023, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 10	Snowshoe Guided Hike-Advanced, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 11	Guided Snowshoe Hike, Tahquamenon Falls State Park
February 11	Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Tahquamenon Falls State Park
February 11	Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 17-19	UP 200 Sled Dog Races, Marquette/Gwinn/Grand Marais
February 17	Snowshoe Guided Hike-Advanced, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 18	Guided Snowshoe Hike, Tahquamenon Falls State Park
February 18	Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Tahquamenon Falls State Park
February 18	Snowshoe Guided Hike-Beginner, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 18	Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 24-26	Becoming an Outdoorswoman (BOW) Winter Session
February 24	Snowshoe Guided Hike-Advanced, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 25	Guided Snowshoe Hike, Tahquamenon Falls State Park
February 25	Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Tahquamenon Falls State Park
February 25	Snowshoe Guided Hike-Beginner, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 25	Lantern-Lit Trail Hike, Porkies Winter Sports Complex
February 25	Porkies Winter Carnival, Porkies Winter Sports Complex

UP 200 Sled Dog Races & Events

February 17-18



in Marquette and surrounding areas

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- Conservation officers conduct stepped-up patrols over I-500 race weekend in Chippewa County (2/7/23)
- Bad bugs, pesky plants: Forest health report covers threats to trees (2/6/23)
- Planned improvement projects at state parks prompt temporary closures (2/6/23)
- Free Snowmobiling Weekend debuts Feb. 11-12 (2/4/23)
- Conservation officer, state trooper rescue resident from burning home in Delta County (2/3/23)
- Weekly Urban and Community Forestry Newsletter - Feb. 3, 2023 (2/3/23)
- Showcasing the DNR: Sunny days ahead (2/2/23)
- DNR to accept comment on proposed Camp Grayling expansion through Feb. 8 (2/2/23)
- Wildlife Habitat Grant application period now open (1/31/23)
- Apply or tell a friend: DNR hiring hundreds of seasonal positions (1/31/23)
- Natural Resources Commission meets Feb. 9 in Lansing; agenda online (1/31/23)
- DNR News: Great Backyard Bird Count, Eagle Scout's cleanup project, fun February events (1/30/23)
- DNR shares FAQs about proposed Great Lakes Consent Decree (1/30/23)
- DNR's new interactive map shows Master Angler, state-record catches (1/27/23)
- DNR ordered to shut down unregulated water source in Ontonagon County (1/27/23)
- Showcasing the DNR: Conservation officers work to recover natural resources thefts (1/26/23)

Grant Contacts

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| ▪ Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant | Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Recreation Passport Grant | Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Michigan Spark Grants (Public Recreation) | Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Aquatic Habitat Grant | Chip Kosloski, 517-284-5965, kosloskic3@michigan.gov |

- Fisheries Habitat Grant Program
- Michigan Invasive Species Grant
- Wildlife Habitat Grant
- U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant
- Forestry Grants
- Land & Water Conservation Fund
- Waterways Program Grants

Chip Kosloski, 517-284-5965, kosloskic3@michigan.gov
 Erin Campbell, 269-300-9698, campbelle6@michigan.gov
 Clay Buchanan, 517-614-0918, buchanenc1@michigan.gov
 Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, scullonh@michigan.gov
<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/forestry>
 Christie Bayus, 517-242-8737, bayusc@michigan.gov
 Linnea Dawson, 517-290-2200, dawsonl@michigan.gov

Western UPCAC Update

The **Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council** met for a virtual work session on January 18th. The work session was an opportunity to review the summary and recommendations from the MSU-facilitated survey/planning sessions last October/November. The agenda was paired back to allow adequate time for review and planning and did not include any action items or natural resource topics. Staff attendance was not requested.

Work Session Agenda

- Review Council Role/Expectations (UPCAC Charter, WUPAC Bylaws)
- Review MSU Facilitator Summary & Key Recommendations from CAC Planning Sessions
 - Streamline meeting planning and agendas
 - Improve communications
 - Diversify the CACs
 - Strengthen relationship between CACs and DNR administration
- Approval of 2023 Meeting Dates & Locations
- Determine Agenda Topics for Each Meeting
- Consider Committee Involvement for 2023
- CAC Selection Process Update
- Additional Discussion
- Next Meeting Date/Location
- Review of Agenda Topics Planned for Next Meeting

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

January NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission met in Lansing on January 12, 2023. Major actions taken:

Acting Director Shannon Lott approved:

- [Fisheries Order 216.23](#), which regulates minnow, wiggler, and crayfish for commercial purposes, and defines waters that are closed to personal take of minnows. The new regulations reflect statutory changes, define reporting deadlines and require the use of the electronic online reporting process for commercial bait harvest and export. The requirement to report online will align this program with other commercial fish operations in Michigan (for example, commercial fish harvest, charter fishing, commercial wholesale fish) that are already implementing online reporting.
- [A number of changes](#) to the state's Wildlife Rehabilitation Regulations.
- Four land transactions. Details of those transactions can be found linked [in the NRC agenda](#).

Acting Director Lott did not take action on the Prairie River stream temperature redesignation for reasons she gave in [a statement on the subject](#).

Fisheries Committee

Seth Herbst of the Fisheries Division gave [a presentation](#) on the outreach the department has done to educate the public about aquatic invasive species. An aquatic invasive species is a species that is not native to Michigan and whose

introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health. Managing aquatic invasive species involves multiple state agencies, including the DNR, along with the departments of the Environment, Great Lakes and Energy; Agriculture and Rural Development; and Transportation. Seth outlined the extensive efforts the state makes to educate people about invasive species, and engage them in fighting the introduction and spread of these species. Groups targeted for these messages include teachers, school children, anglers, boaters, conservation partners and others.

Committee of the Whole

Mark Monroe of the Forest Resources Division [reviewed the department's annual forest roads inventory](#). Signed into law in 2016, Public Act 288 requires that the department to undertake an annual review of state managed forest roads, determine which of these are open to motorized use and update our online maps. In the Upper Peninsula, the department manages 5,613 miles of such roads, with 5,503 of those miles open to ORV use. In the Northern Lower Peninsula, we manage 7,309 miles of forest road, with 6,110 open to ORV use. In the Southern Lower Peninsula, we manage 365 miles, with 10.1 miles open to ORV use. The 2022 review recommends the removal of 28 miles of road segments from state forest road maps for conventional and ORV use. The review recommends deleting 23 miles of roads due to data cleanup of non-existing or duplicate roads. In addition, the review recommends adding 40 miles of roads to maps that were not included before. Those proposed changes will be before Acting Director Lott next month for action.

Chad Stewart of the Wildlife Division [told the commission about results from the 2022 elk seasons](#). Across both hunt periods, state hunters harvested a total of 193 elk, comprised of 72 bulls and 121 cows or calves. Tribal hunters harvested 11 elk.

Acting Resource Deputy Scott Whitcomb, Joe Nohner from the Fisheries Division and Chris Hoving from the Wildlife Division [told the commission about the department's policy on climate change](#). The DNR looks to the state's executive branch, the U.S. Climate Alliance and department-level initiatives to inform its response. At the department level, we have focused on a number of initiatives, including: a first-in-the-country sale of carbon credits on state-managed land, utility scale solar projects, electric vehicle charging stations at state parks and environmentally friendly mass timber construction, including at our own facilities.

Joe reviewed the Fisheries Division Climate Action Plan. The goals of that plan include:

- Increase understanding and communication about climate change
- Consider climate change in policy, management and operations decisions
- Identify and address climate knowledge gaps
- Reduce Fisheries' climate change impacts

Among other demonstrations of the impacts of climate change, Joe provided a chart that tracked ice coverage on Grand Traverse Bay from 1851 to 2019. The chart showed 42 fewer days of ice in a typical year during that time frame. Fisheries Division has sought to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by auditing its own energy use and installing solar arrays at five of the department's six fish hatcheries, which are some of the department's most energy intensive facilities. In addition to reducing emissions, these hatchery arrays will result in about \$90,000 in energy savings annually.

Chris Hoving of the Wildlife Division talked about his division's response to climate change, specifically in relation to game species. The division has undertaken an assessment of all terrestrial game species, examining the impacts of climate change on these animals. As one example, Chris talked about a 2016 study that focused on waterfowl and how climate change is affecting migration patterns, shifting those patterns later in the fall by three to five days per decade. By the end of the century late migrating species such as mallards may not migrate out of the state at all – a gain for Michigan in terms of bird population but a loss for southern states. Wildlife Division has been recognized as a national leader in climate adaptation. We are the only state that has done a comprehensive climate vulnerability assessment of game species.

How to Participate in the NRC Meetings

- If you're unable to attend the meeting but wish to submit written comments on agenda items, please write to: Natural Resources Commission, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909 or email: nrc@michigan.gov.
- If you would like further information or would like to address the Commission, please contact the NRC Assistant at 517-331-7792 or email: nrc@michigan.gov. Persons registering on or before the Friday preceding the meeting will be allowed up to five (5) minutes for their presentation. Persons registering after the Friday preceding the meeting or at the meeting will be allowed up to three (3) minutes. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the NRC Assistant.

- Look for the agendas and other Natural Resources Commission items at the Natural Resources Commission webpage (www.michigan.gov/NRC).

February 2023 Legislative Updates – Taylor Ridderbusch, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

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

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

SB 46 – Eliminate Penal Code Violation for Not Reporting a Deer Harvest within 72 Hours – Sen. Hoitenga: This bill amends Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to eliminate the misdemeanor penal code violation for not reporting a deer harvest or not retaining a deer harvest confirmation number.

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

SB 52 – Eliminate Penal Code Violation for Not Reporting a Deer Harvest within 72 Hours – Sen. Cherry: This bill amends Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to eliminate the misdemeanor penal code violation for not reporting a deer harvest or not retaining a deer harvest confirmation number.

- The bill referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture.
- 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 <https://www.legislature.mi.gov>.

Division Updates

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

Project Name: Haywire Grade – 11 Bridges	Project Name: Trail 8 – 3 Bridges	Project Name: Bissel Creek Culvert	Project Name: 20th Street Culvert
Description: Engineer and replace 11 bridges	Description: Engineer and replace 3 bridges	Description: Engineer culvert replacement	Description: Replace concrete culverts
Trail Use: ORV/Snowmobile	Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use:	Trail Use: Multi Use
Anticipated Completion: ??	Anticipated Completion: 2023	Anticipated Completion: 2022	Anticipated Completion: 2023
Q1 Update: UPEA on board, Bridge inspections happening to decide which needs rebuilt and which can be re-decked. Working with USFS to move this forward.	Q1 Update: Last 2 bridges at 90% engineered. Looking to add funding to bid all three projects.	Q1 Update: Additional funding received, and bid is being awarded.	Q1 Update: Engineering at 90%, EGLE permits submitted, more funding needed to move to construction.
Project Name: Headquarters Lake Equestrian Signs	Project Name: Blind Sucker Pathway Boardwalk	Project Name: Millecoquins River Bridge	
Description: Signs & Canada Lakes brushing	Description: Rebuild boardwalk	Description: Snowmobile bridge footing replacement	
Trail Use: Equestrian	Trail Use: Hiking	Trail Use: Snowmobile	

Anticipated Completion: 2022	Anticipated Completion: 2022	Anticipated Completion: 2022
Q1 Update: Progress made by locals on adding signage to the trail. More to do in the spring.	Q1 Update: Funding secured; Contract crew not available until next spring/summer.	Q1 Update: Waiting on construction funding.

Finance & Operations: Michelle Douglas, Eastern UP

- Spring 2023 Fishing guides will be arriving at Customer Service Centers within the next couple of weeks.
- Statewide DNR employee meetings with DNR executive and divisional leadership are being held throughout the state January - April. The Upper Peninsula meetings are scheduled during April in Marquette and Sault Ste. Marie.
- Enjoy Free Fishing Weekend! Two days twice a year, families and friends can enjoy one of Michigan's premier outdoor activities, Michigan Fishing, for FREE! Free fishing weekend dates for 2023 are: February 18 and 19 and June 10 and 11. All fishing license fees will be waived for two days. Residents and out-of-state visitors may enjoy fishing on both inland and Great Lakes waters for all species of fish. All fishing regulations will still apply. A Recreation Passport will NOT be required for entry into state parks and boating access sites during Free Fishing Weekends.

Season Dates for February & March 2023 (See Guides on Pages Noted for More Detail)

- 2/18 & 2/19 – Winter Free Fishing Weekend
- 2/26 – Last day for ice shanties on Lake St. Clair (see p. 70 in guide)
- 3/1 – New year hunt / fish / ORV licenses go on sale (most licenses expire 3/31)
- 3/1 – Applications for 2024 Pure Michigan Hunt begin
- 3/1 – Hand netting opens (smelt, suckers, bowfin, carp, gar, shad, goldfish) – see p. 23
- 3/1 – Fox hunting closes; also, Coyote, Fox, Muskrat, Mink trapping all close.
- 3/1 – Bobcat Hunting closes (Units A, B, C), and Badger Trapping closes in Zone 3.
- 3/1 – Tree stands, and ladders must be removed from all public lands
- 3/1 – Last day for ice shanties in southern Lower Peninsula counties, see p. 70
- 3/1 – Pike, Walleye, Sauger close on the “Boundary Waters” (see p. 25 for exceptions)
- 3/6 – Drawing results posted for Spring Turkey hunts
- 3/11 – Last day to register Bobcats taken by hunting (Units A, B, C) – see p. 12 for all dates
- 3/13 – Leftover Turkey on sale for unsuccessful applicants; OTC begins 3/20/23
- 3/15 – Last day for ice shanties in northern Lower Peninsula & Boundary Waters; see p. 70
- 3/15 – Walleye, Pike, Muskie seasons close in most waters (exceptions p.11-12 and p. 25)
- 3/15 – Sturgeon seasons close (see p.15 for legal waters and St. Clair possession dates)
- 3/20 – May use dip nets (smelt, suckers, bowfin, carp, gar, shad, goldfish) – see p.23 for hand nets
- 3/20 – Leftover Turkey and Hunt 234 on sale for ALL hunters (at 10:00 am)
- 3/31 – Hunt, Fish, and ORV Licenses expire (Fur Harvester is valid until April 30)
- 3/31 – Last day for ice shanties in the Upper Peninsula, see p. 70
- 3/31 - Squirrel, Early Crow, Raccoon, and Rabbit/Hare seasons close
- 3/31 – Last day of Otter trapping (For incidental Otter trapped in April, see p. 12 fur digest)

Forest Resources Division: Scott Lakosky, Eastern UP Supervisor

Timber Sales

- Newberry FMU
 - Newberry offered 6 sales: 2 sold, 4 went no bid due to lowland soil types and winter cutting issues.
 - There are currently 14 sales with varying degrees of activity on the unit. Loggers are currently cutting in low ground or sales with access issues where winter weather is necessary. Thus far, winter weather has been somewhat conducive for sales that need winter weather to operate.

- Forestry staff have been busy preparing timber sales and administering active sales. Over 2,000 acres have been contracted to be prepared by various forestry consultant firms, staff are administering that work as well.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
 - 8 sales were offered, 5 sold and 3 went no bid.
 - 2 sales are advertised for later in February.
 - Harvesting activity across the unit is slow with some winter harvesting and completion of sales taking place across the unit.
- Shingleton FMU
 - Three sales sold since last report; all 3 went well over minimum and had strong bidding interest.
 - This winter is proving difficult for harvesting low ground with the mild temperatures. We are experiencing some cold temperatures, but with a warm-up is on the horizon, we will need another month to evaluate weather-related extensions. Sale activity is steady on all types.

Forest Inventory

- Field work for 2025 year of entry inventory is well underway.

Cultivation

- The 2023 Planting allocation for each district has been finalized.
- The plan in 2023 for planting in the EUP
 - 333,000 jack pine to be planted on 368 acres in the EUP (mainly Newberry MU)
 - 749,350 red pine to be planted on 828 acres in the EUP
- The initial number for planting in 2024 include:
 - 523 acres being planted to jack pine across the Newberry and Shingleton Units
 - 1035 acres to be planted across the EUP
- Working on finalizing the aerial spray and ground spray acreages for 2023. Aerial release work will be done in late September and aerial site prep work will be done across the state in July and August. Some ground site prep work may be done in early summer in the EUP. Estimated numbers:
 - 216 acres of aerial release work
 - 648 acres of aerial site prep work
 - 50 acres of ground/skidder release work
 - 352 acres of ground/skidder site prep work
- All herbicide work in the EUP will be done under contract.
- Pre-Commercial Thinning (PCT) work: Currently the EUP will have 4 sites done with this type of release work, totaling 174 acres.
- Work continues on the cultivation POW and equipment schedule. Current numbers are still being finalized at this time.

Fire

- Newberry FMU (Forest Management Unit)
 - Fire staff doing snowmobile trail checks. Inspected over 100 miles of trails to date for signage and safety. Continue to work with 2 area clubs to ensure compliance, monitoring of snow conditions, etc.
 - Fire equipment has been winterized and preventative maintenance inspections completed.
 - Working on Rx Burn plans for upcoming season and preparing for annual refresher trainings.
 - Drafted the 2022 Annual Fire Report for the unit.
 - One staff member received their Task Force Leader qualification.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
 - 1 staff completed and 1 staff was an instructor M-410 – Facilitative Instructor in Traverse City as part of our Great Lake Fire Compact.
 - 2 staff completed S-330 Task Force/Strike Team Leader in Cadillac.
 - 2 staff attended Incident Management Team meeting in TC.
- Shingleton FMU

- Fire officers are servicing fire equipment in preparation for the upcoming fire season.
- Burn plans are being worked on in preparation for spring burning.
- Fireline refreshers are being put together.
- Snowmobile trail checks have been completed and clubs have been notified about signing issues.

Road and Bridge

- The Stanley Lake Bridge was bid out and a contractor was selected. This is awaiting ad-board approval. Once approved, the award will happen and construction will begin in the early summer.

Facilities

- The Thompson garage was bid out and contract awarded. Construction to occur starting in the spring.
- The Shingleton Fire garage project is moving along. Additional insulation was recently installed in the ceiling and new windows will be installed soon.
- The Newberry mass timber office building construction is scheduled to break ground in the spring of 2023.

Land use

- Reviewed and issued a snowmobile trail grooming permit to a private individual (Newberry Unit).
- Have been in conversation with Coleman Engineering, firm hired by Luce County Road Commission, regarding a major county road reconstruction project on County Road 407 & 410 in north Luce County.

Forest Certification

- Newberry staff are involved with a Cedar research project being conducted by Michigan Tech to study cedar regeneration and recruitment as well as past practices of cedar management. Public presentations of that research are being planned for 2023.

Forest Health

- Just before heavy snowfall, staff conducted surveys for heterobasidion root disease (HRD) at sites where pockets of red pine mortality were identified during aerial surveys. No HRD was detected, however staff encourage reporting pockets of red pine mortality, particularly in previously thinned plantations.

Commercial Forest

- Connecting with EUP forestry consultants, landowners, township officials, conservation officers, etc.
- Reviewing forest management plans that are coming in from consultants.
- Talking to landowners & consultants over email and on the phone.
- Attended a Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) meeting in Newberry to meet with MDARD employees and consultants.

Training

- Staff involved with FRD strategic plan discussion.
- State fire instruction orientation.
- Several EUP staff members attended GIS/Portal Training in Naubinway.

Vacancies

- Kyle Gould transferred to Gwinn leaving the Shingleton GNA Forester vacant. Interviews to backfill have occurred but waiting approval to fill.
- A Forest Tech 11 position is going to be advertised for the Seney Field Office.
- The Newberry Forest Fire Officer Supervisor vacancy has been advertised.
- Interviews have been conducted for a Forest Fire Officer vacancy and a Forester vacancy with job offers being made soon. All positions are located in Newberry.
- A Forest Technician 11 position is being processed to fill a long-standing Forest Technician vacancy in Naubinway.

- Interviews are scheduled for 3 temporary fire officers in the EUP along with several other locations across the state. These are 20-week appointments that will begin in the spring.

Fisheries Division – Neal Godby, Eastern UP

- Field crews are wrapping up data entry from 2022 fish community surveys. Age and growth from all those surveys is also wrapping up. This data will be summarized by the local Fisheries Biologist and included in written reports for each survey. Survey reports are completed typically by the end of spring and are available to the public upon request. Status of the Fishery Reports are always available on the Michigan DNR webpage. Status of the Fishery Reports are completed by Fisheries Division staff and are an excellent resource for the public to understand historical management and recommendations for future management of a particular waterbody.
- The Black Lake sturgeon spearing season took place February 4, with field crews from Eastern Lake Superior Management Unit (Newberry) and Northern Lake Huron Management Unit (Gaylord) working at the lake. The season lasted 65 minutes, with the harvest quota of six (6) fish reached. The fish ranged in size from 32 to 55.5 inches in length and 6.4 to 35 pounds in weight.
- Munising Bay creel clerk began the week of January 30th. The clerk is stationed at Munising Bay during the winter ice season. The clerk conducts angler interviews to collect angler demographic and fishing trip details for Munising Bay and eventually Grand Marais, during the open water period. The creel is scheduled to run through the end of October. Please participate if you are approached by the clerk as this information being gathered is critical to manage your Michigan fisheries.
- Newberry management staff met for the Lake Superior Basin Team in January. Topics of the meeting included: Creel coverage for non-creeled ports, proposed fisheries regulations, splake aging and genetics, and updates for grant funded projects in Fisheries Division within the Lake Superior Basin. The Lake Superior Basin Team is an internal team consisting of managers, hatchery staff, research biologists, and technical staff from the Management Units represented in the basin.
- Alger Conservation District and Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation Development Council applied for the EGLE permit to complete the habitat enhancement project on Au Train Lake. The project application is currently in public notice. This project was funded through the Fisheries Habitat Grant program through Fisheries Division. The project objective is to improve lake habitat for forage species and juvenile stages of game species by installing 90 coarse woody structures in the lake. A total of 61 “Fishsticks” and 29 brush bundles will be installed this winter. Any remaining structures not installed on the ice will be completed immediately following ice-out this spring. An on the ice education and volunteer day is scheduled for March 4th. See the MUCC, Alger Conservation District, and UPRC&D webpages for more information.
- In 2021, Lake Superior State University’s Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE) applied for funding through the Fisheries Habitat Grant to purchase, install, and maintain specialized water sensors on Lake Superior streams. With this funding, in 2022 two sensors were installed on Lake Superior streams (Tahquamenon River and Two Hearted River). The CFRE operates a network of river sensors to monitor daily temperature, depth, conductivity, and at some locations turbidity and water/air temperatures. Many of these river sensors are maintained and operated collaboratively by local school groups for educational purposes and conservation partners. A total of 21 sensors are in the Upper Peninsula with 7 sensors located in the Au Sable River watershed in the northern lower peninsula (all 28 were already installed through a variety of funding sources and partners). Eight sensors are located on Lake Superior streams. Ten sensors are located on Lake Huron streams in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Streams were selected through a collaborative process with Michigan DNR Fisheries, EGLE, and CFRE. Many streams are high quality coldwater streams that support resident trout and migratory salmonid species, while other streams offer significant coolwater recreational fisheries and potential for further management. These sensors will provide important data to understand how water flow and water quality can help manage and conserve

our natural resources. For any specific questions about MiWaterNet please contact Drew Heckman (dheckman@lssu.edu) Please see the link for access to real time stream data. [CFRE MiWaterNet \(shinyapps.io\)](http://CFRE.MiWaterNet(shinyapps.io))

- To date for the 2022-23 fishing season, 18 muskellunge have been reported as harvested. During the open water period, 14 muskellunge were reported. Four fish have been reported during the ice fishing season. The harvest season for muskellunge statewide ends on March 15th. Anglers are reminded that only 1 muskellunge per angler, per license year is allowed. A mandatory registration of that harvested fish can be completed by calling the hotline (888-636-7778) or by registering the fish online at www.Michigan.gov/RegisterFish.
- Staff attended the Lake Superior Technical Committee meeting in Marquette Jan 10-12. Agenda items included: State of the Lake Reporting, Fish Community Objective metrics, fish aging workshop, Cisco recruitment project, Buffalo Reef genetics work, Splake introgression project, USGS pelagic fish update, CSMI food web study, trophic ecology of Isle Royale Lake Charr types, Lake Trout genomics, a Burbot proposal, and Sea Lamprey control.
- Lake Superior water levels are near all-time high (within 0.7 feet), largely due to above average precipitation. USACE are restricted to two gates fully open at the compensation gates during the winter (under Regulation plan 2012). Meanwhile Huron/Michigan continues to drop and water level is at the long term-average and 9.1 inches below the level a year ago. Water levels in Lake Superior are expected to continue to drop through the winter months.
- The Au Train River dammed following heavy north winds and the Christmas blizzard. The Township submitted for a permit to have holes cut into the ice damming. While this work was being completed, enough sand was displaced under the ice to increase flow and reduce the flooding in the area. EGLE, USACOE, and MDOT expedited the permit to perform work at the river mouth following an emergency meeting where a performance resolution was approved. A long-term solution was not discussed.
- Northern Lake Huron Management Unit (NLHMU) staff are aging scales and fin rays/spines collected during the multi-agency St. Marys River Fish Community survey done in 2022. Catch data have been entered in a database, and the St. Marys River Fisheries Task Group is working on data analysis and reporting.
- NLHMU staff are analyzing and summarizing data collected during the 2022 creel survey of the St. Marys River. This too was a cooperative project with other members of the St. Marys River Fisheries Task Group.

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

Since our last CAC, we wrapped up the 2022 deer season with cases being made right until the end with several still in progress. Ice fishing, trapping and snowmobiling have now taken the forefront for officers. The most recent large event was the I-500 snowmobile race in the Sault which drew in trail riders from several states. This year's event had more riders on local trails than we have ever experienced, with fresh snow and perfect trail conditions. The high activity weekend also presented officers with any more violation's than past years. Officers made 782 contacts, gave out 178 verbal warnings and issued 87 citations. Below are the bi-weekly reports since our last meeting.

DISTRICT 2 BIWEEKLY REPORT 11-27-2022 - 12-10-2022

- **CO Todd Sumbera** received information that an individual from an ongoing complaint was deer hunting over an excessive amount of bait. CO Sumbera followed up to find a large over-limit of bait and the hunter was not wearing any hunter orange. A citation was issued for no hunter orange and a verbal warning was given for hunting over more than two gallons of bait.
- **CO Justin Vinson** was patrolling northern Luce County when he discovered several unlawful traps set along a county roadway. All the traps failed to meet the requirements for utilizing traps between five and a half inches and seven and a half inches, with bait, directly on the ground. Several of the traps were also found without tags. The following morning, CO Vinson contacted the trappers while checking their sets. The group was new to trapping and CO Vinson educated them of the legal box dimensions when using body-gripping traps set on the ground and its importance as it prevents non-targeted wildlife and domestic animals from being caught. A citation was issued for using untagged traps and verbal warnings were given for using unlawful traps.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was reviewing the furbearer registration when he came across a suspicious registration of a fisher. CO VanOosten conducted an interview and determined that the fisher was harvested out of season the previous year and stored in the freezer until this year when it was registered. Upon follow up, it was discovered the man had an additional three untagged fisher that were in his freezer. Two of the

fishers had been taken out of season. The animals were seized, and a report was generated and submitted to the Luce County Prosecutor's Office for failure to immediately tag a fisher, taking a fisher out of season, and taking an over-limit of fisher.

- **CO Mike Olesen** participated in WNMU-TV program "Ask the DNR." CO Olesen, and a panel of other DNR guests, answered many questions that were called into the live TV program.
- **COs Steve Butzin and Mike Evink** participated in a "Shop with a Cop" event in Manistique which was hosted by Manistique Public Safety. Several children were picked up from their residences in Manistique, taken out to breakfast at 3 Seasons Restaurant, then hit the stores where they were given \$150 to spend on presents for themselves and their family. The children were then taken to the Cedar Street Cinema to watch a movie while officers wrapped the presents for the children. Finally, the children were dropped back off at their residences with loads of presents. Agencies that participated included Manistique Public Safety, Sault Ste Marie Tribal Police, Michigan State Police (MSP), Schoolcraft County Sheriff's Office, as well as the Michigan DNR.
- **CO Chris Lynch** gave a presentation at a hunter safety field day. Approximately 15 students were in attendance. CO Lynch explained the job of a conservation officer and answered questions for students and parents in attendance.
- **CO Chris Lynch** received a complaint that someone possibly hunted with a firearm in the safety zone of an occupied building. CO Lynch interviewed a witness and the suspect. The suspect admitted to shooting at a racoon, but other evidence suggests it was a turkey. CO Lynch informed the suspect he was within the safety zone of four buildings, the firearm was seized, and advised that a report would be submitted to the prosecutor for review.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** responded to a complaint of a large carcass pile on commercial forest land. Upon locating the pile, CO Freeborn checked with local camps in the area to see if they were responsible. It was determined that one of the camps were responsible for half of the pile. While talking with the suspects, it was noticed they still had three buck heads hanging from the pole. When CO Freeborn checked the licenses still attached to the antlers, it was found that one of the deer was tagged by a wife of one of the camp owners. After interviewing all parties involved, it was determined that the husband did not want to use his last combination tag and asked his wife to buy a tag and drop it off. Citations were issued for using/loaning a tag to another.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink** were on routine patrol when they observed a four-wheeler traveling against the flow of traffic on a US highway. Upon closer inspection, it was also determined that the operator was not wearing a helmet. As the off-road vehicle (ORV) exited the highway, it turned behind a large commercial building. The COs went around the opposite side of the building to cut the operator off before he entered the woods. As the COs stopped the ORV, they also observed an uncased rifle across the operator's lap. After contact, the operator was issued a citation for no helmet and uncased firearm on an ORV.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** interviewed a hunter regarding his 6-point buck. The hunter admitted that he shot the deer prior to purchasing a license. He also admitted to shooting a grouse without a license. The COs seized two firearms and the deer, donating the meat to a local needy family. A report is being submitted to the Alger County Prosecutor's Office.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 12-11-2022 – 12-26-2022

- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** investigated the harvest of a spike horn white tailed deer near the Alger-Marquette County line. The hunter admitted he purchased the deer license the day after he shot the deer. A report is being submitted to the Alger County Prosecutor's Office.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Brandon Maki** received an anonymous tip that a hunter shot a white-tailed spike horn deer and used his regular combination deer license. The COs arrived at the suspect's residence and asked him about his deer season. He stated he shot a spike horn behind his house and tagged it with his combination tag. The suspect brought the COs the spike horn skull cap with the attached regular combination tag. The COs then notified the hunter in order to shoot a buck with his regular combination tag it was required to have at least three points on one side. The hunter stated he was unaware of such rule and thought it was a new rule change. A report will be submitted to the Marquette County Prosecutor's Office.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol in Garden Township when Delta County Central Dispatch put out a call of a one vehicle accident with entrapment and stated the vehicle was on fire. CO Butzin was able to respond to the location in under a minute and discovered that the driver of the vehicle, an elderly gentleman, was in good health and the smoke was not a fire but steam from a broken radiator. The driver left the roadway and struck a tree resulting in the damage to the vehicle. It was determined that during a snowstorm, an oncoming vehicle failed to dim their high beams which made the driver lose sight of the road. The driver refused any medical attention. CO Butzin gave the driver a ride back to his residence and his vehicle was recovered by a local towing service.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** located a large 330 conibear trap placed directly on the ground on state land. There were no identification tags on the trap. With the area being frequented by hunting dogs, CO VanOosten set off the trap to ensure that no domestic dogs were caught in the illegal set. A suspect was determined, and an interview was conducted. It was found that the man was new to trapping and had multiple illegal sets in the area including traps that were targeting rabbits. CO VanOosten educated the man on the laws regarding placing conibears on state land and that rabbits were not a species that were legal to trap. A citation was issued to the man for possessing/using an untagged trap and warnings were issued for the additional violations.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and Sgt. Calvin Smith** attended a meeting with Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division personnel to plan a trapping event in Newberry for children to attend. The goal of the event is to educate up to 25 youth in the community about trapping and the ethics and laws about trapping.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** teamed up with the Luce County Sheriff's Department for a snowmobile patrol. Due to an increase in snowmobile related incidents, the officers focused heavily on intersections and corners for careless operation. Not long after arriving at an intersection that crosses a county roadway the officers observed two snowmobilers go through the intersection at a high rate of speed. A stop was conducted, and the individuals stated to the COs that they didn't even see the stop sign at the intersection. Citations were written for careless operation.

- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on snowmobile patrol in a busy section of Luce County where a recent fatal accident occurred. CO VanOosten encountered two snowmobiles operating against the flow of traffic. A traffic stop was initiated, and it was determined that they also did not have trail permits. A citation was issued to the lead operator for no trail permit. A warning was issued for careless operation.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol when a call of an attempted suicide came out nearby. CO VanOosten responded and assisted the MSP until EMS arrived. The woman had taken numerous pills and had several lacerations on her wrists. The woman voluntarily went to seek treatment.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** assisted the Mackinac County Sheriff's Department and MSP in searching for a suspect who was in a physical altercation with a female. It was reported that the male grabbed the steering wheel of the vehicle they were driving in causing the car to leave the highway and come to rest in the ditch. The male then fled the area on foot before law enforcement arrived. CO Sumbera, a trooper, and a deputy were able to successfully track the man down and learned that he had a personal protection order against him from the female he was with. He was lodged in the Mackinac County Jail.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a complaint of a gate closed on a snowmobile trail blocking access to the trail. The locked gate was located, and the local snowmobile club was advised. The landowner was contacted and stated he shut it after the snow melted due to vehicles driving his property, but since the last storm and the snow depth he was unable to make it back out. Due to the amount of water on parts of the trail, CO Freeborn assisted the groomer operator in accessing the gate through an alternate route to avoid getting the groomer stuck.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** attended an active shooter training with the local police department. The training was held at the local school with multiple agencies attending.
- **CO Michael Evink** was patrolling state land on New Year's Day 2023 when he observed a parked vehicle and determined that someone was hunting in the area. CO Evink continued to patrol and returned closer to the end of shooting hours to wait and check on the hunter. CO Evink gave the hunter close to 20 minutes past legal hunting hours then walked in. CO Evink contacted the hunter approximately 30 minutes after shooting hours sitting in his blind and still hunting with a loaded rifle. The hunter was very surprised to see him working on the holiday and admitted that he was aware when hunting hours ended. Additionally, he did not have any hunter orange with him. Law enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was on patrol when a call came out for an unresponsive person and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was in progress. CO Lynch was the first on scene and continued performing CPR on the person along with attaching an automated external defibrillator (AED) until EMS arrived. CO Lynch continued assisting EMS with rendering first aid to the person. Unfortunately, the person passed away.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPRT 12-27-2022 – 1-7-2023

- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** investigated the harvest of a spike horn white tailed deer near the Alger-Marquette County line. The hunter admitted he purchased the deer license the day after he shot the deer. A report is being submitted to the Alger County Prosecutor's Office.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Brandon Maki** received an anonymous tip that a hunter shot a white-tailed spike horn deer and used his regular combination deer license. The COs arrived at the suspect's residence and asked him about his deer season. He stated he shot a spike horn behind his house and tagged it with his combination tag. The suspect brought the COs the spike horn skull cap with the attached regular combination tag. The COs then notified the hunter in order to shoot a buck with his regular combination tag it was required to have at least three points on one side. The hunter stated he was unaware of such rule and thought it was a new rule change. A report will be submitted to the Marquette County Prosecutor's Office.
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- **CO Cole VanOosten** located a large 330 conibear trap placed directly on the ground on state land. There were no identification tags on the trap. With the area being frequented by hunting dogs, CO VanOosten set off the trap to ensure that no domestic dogs were caught in the illegal set. A suspect was determined, and an interview was conducted. It was found that the man was new to trapping and had multiple illegal sets in the area including traps that were targeting rabbits. CO VanOosten educated the man on the laws regarding placing conibears on state land and that rabbits were not a species that were legal to trap. A citation was issued to the man for possessing/using an untagged trap and warnings were issued for the additional violations.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and Sgt. Calvin Smith** attended a meeting with Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division personnel to plan a trapping event in Newberry for children to attend. The goal of the event is to educate up to 25 youth in the community about trapping and the ethics and laws about trapping.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** teamed up with the Luce County Sheriff's Department for a snowmobile patrol. Due to an increase in snowmobile related incidents, the officers focused heavily on intersections and corners for careless operation. Not long after arriving at an intersection that crosses a county roadway the officers observed two snowmobilers go through the intersection at a high rate of speed. A stop was conducted, and the individuals stated to the COs that they didn't even see the stop sign at the intersection. Citations were written for careless operation.
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- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol when a call of an attempted suicide came out nearby. CO VanOosten responded and assisted the MSP until EMS arrived. The woman had taken numerous pills and had several lacerations on her wrists. The woman voluntarily went to seek treatment.

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DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 1-7-2023 - 1-23-2023

- **CO Justin Vinson** was patrolling the Luce, Schoolcraft, and Alger County lines for snowmobile activity when he observed several sleds off trail and notice one without a registration sticker. Upon further investigation it was revealed that two more riders were without registration. Citations were issued for registration violations.
- **CO Justin Vinson** was patrolling towards Seney when he observed a snowmobile operating against the flow of traffic on State Highway M77. A stop was conducted and when asked why the rider was operating on the highway, he stated the trail was too bumpy. A citation was issued for operating on state highway, and a warning given for failing to display registration.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and Sgt. Calvin Smith** attended the Eastern UP snow council meeting in Hulbert. The COs gave a brief synopsis of statistics for the 2021-2022 snowmobile season. The number of citations, contacts, and search and rescue efforts were well received by the members of the council.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on snowmobile patrol when he observed a man fishing a lake in Mackinac County. CO VanOosten saw 3 tip-ups on the ice surrounding him. After watching the man tend to a tip-up the man returned and began using a jigging pole and caught a panfish. At this point, CO VanOosten walked out, upon seeing the officer, the man reeled up his pole and attempted to hide it from the officer's view. When contacted the man admitted to fishing too many lines. A check of prior violations showed he had previously been convicted of fishing with too many lines. A citation was issued for fishing more than three lines.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on snowmobile patrol with a Luce County Sheriff's deputy when they encountered a large water hole that had opened up along a snowmobile trail in northern Luce County. Several individuals had got their snowmobiles stuck while attempting to cross the open water. The officers assisted in recovering one sled from the water and helped those waiting to cross by finding an alternate route around the obstruction. Trail conditions were relayed to the DNR trail manager and groomers association to remediate the problem, likely saving many from cold and wet feet.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was able to close out a case from September of 2019 involving a wolf being shot and killed during bear season in Mackinac County. CO Sumbera interviewed one of the suspects who stated that his father-in-law had shot the wolf during bear season. CO Sumbera then contacted CO Cody Bourgeois in Oakland County. CO Bourgeois obtained a full confession from the father-in-law on the illegal killing of the wolf. A report is being compiled and sent to the Sault Band of Chippewa Indians Tribal prosecutor's office for review.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** received a call from an individual who used a cable restraint to catch what they had believed to be a coyote but wanted confirmation. CO Sumbera arrived to find that the trapper had harvested a wolf. During the investigation, a total of 12 cable restraints were located on state land with multiple violations on each cable restraint as well. A report is being compiled and forwarded to the prosecutor's office for review.
- **CO Mike Olesen** conducted several snowmobile patrols in Chippewa County that focused on careless operation. During the patrols CO Olesen observed several snowmobiles cross intersections with stop signs without even slowing down or looking for oncoming traffic. In total 7 citations were issued for careless operation of a snowmobile and 1 citation being issued for failing to attach a snowmobile trail permit.
- **CO Mike Olesen** responded to a snowmobile accident in Chippewa County. CO Olesen used his patrol truck to access the scene of the accident and assisted Michigan State Police with the investigation.
- **COs Todd Sumbera and Tim Rosochacki and Sgt. Calvin Smith** conducted a snowmobile patrol in Chippewa County over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. Several citations were issued for careless operation, fail to attach snowmobile registration, and for failing to attach snowmobile trail permits.
- **CO Steve Butzin** patrolled the frozen waters of Little Bay de Noc. While on patrol several violations for expired snowmobiles, ORV registrations, and undersize walleye were observed, citations were issued to several individuals.
- **CO Chris Lynch and Sgt. Mark Zitnik** were on foot patrol checking ice anglers. The COs came across one group of successful anglers who had caught several fish. The COs asked to see their fishing licenses, only a couple had their license in possession. After checking the licensing system, it was determined that all but one purchased a fishing license. The subject received a citation for fishing without a license. One of the

anglers who had a fishing license but not in their possession, had a statewide felony warrant out for his arrest, he was placed under arrest and lodged in the Delta County jail.

- **CO Andrea Dani** observed three snowmobiles disregard a stop sign. CO Dani conducted a traffic stop on the sleds. Enforcement action was taken for careless operation of a snowmobile.
- The Alger County Prosecutor's Office authorized charges for an illegal deer after an investigation and report completed by **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani**. The COs cited the hunter for taking a 6-point deer without a license; failure to immediately validate kill tag; and hunt small game without a license.
- The Alger County Prosecutor's Office authorized charges for recreation trespass that occurred on opening day of firearm deer season.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Brandon Maki** were patrolling on their snowmobiles on Trail 8 between M94 and H13 when they came across a group of snowmobiles stopped on the edge of the trail. COs observed the remnants of a snowmobile that had just finished burning. COs stayed with the snowmobilers until a wrecker service had cleared the trail of all debris.
- **CO Brandon Maki** and a deputy from the Alger County Sheriff's Department performed a snowmobile patrol near a busy intersection. Throughout the day CO Maki and the Sheriff Deputy contacted approximately 85 snowmobilers. Of those 8 were cited for violations ranging from failing to attach trail permits and failing to display their registration. Multiple verbal warnings were given for improperly placed registrations and trail permits.
- While working a busy holiday weekend on snowmobile patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn** contacted several hundred sleds. While overall compliance was very good, one citation was issued for no trail permit.
- While checking on a snowmobile trespass complaint, **CO Robert Freeborn** observed the truck in front of him had an expired plate. After verifying through dispatch, it was confirmed it expired 2 years ago. An enforcement stop was made, and the driver was issued a citation for the expired plate.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 1-24-2023 - 02-05-2023

- **CO Steve Butzin** patrolled the frozen waters of Little Bay de Noc. While on patrol several violations for undersize walleye and northern pike were discovered with several citations were issued to individuals for possession of the undersize fish.
- **COs Chris Lynch, Rob Freeborn, and PCO Peter Shambaugh** were on snowmobiles patrolling Little Bay De Noc checking ice anglers. As the COs approached one angler, the subject began reeling up his jigging pole. Unfortunately for the angler it was too late as the COs already observed him jigging with his 3 tip ups set up next to him. The angler received a citation.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** responded to an EMS call for an elderly male with no pulse and CPR in progress. The COs took over CPR upon arrival and utilized their AED. Unfortunately, the COs and EMS were unable to revive the man.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** patrolled Trail 7 near Christmas. Multiple snowmobilers were issued citations for careless operation for failure to stop at stop signs.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** patrolled near Sault Ste Marie and Brimley during the group patrol for the I-500 snowmobile race. The officers made several snowmobile stops due to improper registrations and trail permits as well as careless operation and faulty equipment. Enforcement action taken on several of the violations.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** assisted in the instruction at the department's snowmobile school to the new recruits. The recruits learned basic snowmobile operations as well as all state laws. The class went smoothly, and the recruits were eager to use what they had learned in the field.
- **CO Michael Evink** responded to a litter complaint where numerous bags of garbage had been dumped on private property. CO Evink was able to identify a suspect based on the garbage left on the scene. It took a few hours to track down the suspect. After undeniable evidence was presented, the suspect fully admitted to the deed. The suspect was issued a civil infraction for littering and CO Evink made sure the site was restored to the property owner's expectations.
- **CO Mike Evink** assisted Manistique Public Safety, MSP, and the Sault Tribal law enforcement on a medical call where a subject was not responding. All possible life saving measures were expended however the subject was not able to be saved.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Brandon Maki** were on a snowmobile patrol where the snowmobile trail intersected a motor vehicle roadway near Munising. COs Dani and Maki issued several careless operation citations to riders who failed to stop and ended up in the roadway.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was on a snowmobile patrol when he observed a snowmobile with an expired registration. CO Maki contacted the rider who stated that he forgot to put his registration on before coming up to the U.P. to ride. CO Maki issued the rider a citation for failing to display his registration and assisted the group with directions before clearing the stop.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** finished up an investigation in Luce County on a subject who has repeatedly been cited for bear bait violations in the past 4 years. The man, a local bear guide, had been convicted of three separate violations a four-year span, making him a habitual offender. The man received \$1000 in fines and restitutions for the infractions.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** were on patrol in Luce and Mackinac County prior to a local fishing tournament. 9 citations were issued for various fishing violations including 5 tickets for unattended lines, including one group who had tip-ups set out for over 1 mile across the lake. Numerous other warnings were given as well.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol in Newberry when a call of a snowmobile accident was received. CO VanOosten responded to the area and located a totaled sled that had hit a large tree. The man declined medical attention. A citation was issued to the subject for careless operation of a snowmobile.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was off duty when he received a call for assistance from the Michigan State Police with locating a potential suicidal subject who had taken off on a snowmobile. A phone ping showed the man was in a remote section of swamp in Mackinac County. Because of poor cell service in the area, CO VanOosten knew that the ping may not be accurate. CO VanOosten patrolled to the area where he began to follow the man's tracks from his cabin. The tracks led approximately ¼ mile to another residence where the subject's snowmobile was located. It was determined the man was safe and not a harm to himself or others.

- **COs Mike Olesen and Sgt. Calvin Smith** patrolled on snowmobiles in Chippewa County. The patrol focused on careless operation of snowmobiles. During the patrol a total of 6 citations were issued. Violations observed were careless operation and fail to display valid registration. With the 6 citations, a total of 8 warnings were given for careless operation.
- **Severall District 2 officers** and a couple from visiting districts participated in multi-day snowmobile patrols for the 54th annual I-500 snowmobile race that was held in Sault Ste. Marie. Activity on area trails was extremely high with several hundred snowmobilers contacted, a fresh foot of unexpected snow which fell Friday night added to near perfect riding conditions. Along with the high number of snowmobilers there were also a very high number of violations encountered, with 87 citations being issued for careless operation, snowmobile registration and trail permit violations and there were also tickets issued for ORV violations that were encountered and addressed. Among the ORV violations one ORV had 3 people on it, 2 on the seat designed for 1 and 1 sitting on the front of it, none were wearing helmets and the ORV hadn't been registered in several years.

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 preliminary cost estimates from professional which was well above available funds. It was determined to put the project on hold for the time being, to strategize the path forward with this project.
- Lime Island Harbor Upgrade Project: Contractor will return in the spring to finish the rubble breakwater/light & seed excavated shoreline areas.
- Brimley Utility Improvement (waterline/storm water replacement): December 19th was a Phase 500 30% design meeting. Additional DNR input was given to professional. 50% design meeting anticipated to be mid-February.
- Brimley Restroom/Shower Building project: Conversion from LP to NG was completed for the BSP restroom/shower buildings at the end of December. There remains a couple of punch list items that needs to be addressed.
- All units have started to look at interested candidates to fill summer worker positions.
- DeTour Ranger vacancy received candidates from Civil Service and waiting on approval to interview. Brimley Ranger vacancy candidates are in the screening process.
- Brimley has an additional Ranger vacancy due to a resignation. Supervisor will start the hiring process when resignation process is complete.
- Brimley: Campground has been closed for the season since October 15, 2022.
- DeTour State Harbor closed for the season on October 1, 2022.
- Lime Island Recreation Area is currently closed for the season.
- Both DeTour & Munuscong state forest campgrounds are closed for the season due to snowfall.
- Algonquin ski trail attendance has been average since the slow start of the ski season.
- Newberry construction crew assisted in repairing a broken water line near the Brimley HQ office in mid-December.
- Brimley & DeTour Rangers have been busy doing infrastructure and equipment maintenance.
- Park staff have also been submitting requests for spring/summer small project funding, green initiatives funding, along with statewide equipment funding requests.
- Brimley staff have been keeping the Algonquin parking lot plowed and grooming the ski trail at least 2X/week.
- A local volunteer has been grooming Pine Bowl Pathway 1x/week (dependent on snowfall).
- DeTour Ranger has been monitoring the ice suppression system at the Harbor, looking at potential summer worker candidates & preparing for 2023 projects (planning/purchasing).
- Park Supervisor, PRD Stewardship, LSSU & DNR Wildlife have continued to work together on enhancing Common Tern nesting at Lime Island. DNR Wildlife secured a grant to pay for a LSSU student to stay on Lime Island for a portion of the 2023 Common Tern nesting season to monitor for predators, count & observe the colony.

Fayette Historic State Park

- Townsite: General reactionary maintenance to window sashes, doors, locks, siding, etc. Began restoration on Building #7*
- Park: Finish laying landscape block mini-wall along ADA parking area for townsite. Plow snow/ice. Grooming XC ski/snowshoe trails not many times very little snow to date.
- Portage Bay: Began much needed repair work on vault toilets
- BAS: Skid piers pulled at all sites

- Lantern Hike/Snowshoe/XC Ski was held Saturday January 28th: Weather was clear and cold. Received about 4" of snow Friday making for great conditions.
- 2022 camp nights: 6,606
- 2022 lodge nights: 205

Indian Lake State Park & Palms Book State Park

- Palms Book septic fields project has been put on hold until spring.
- Plutchak Fabrication has new frame constructed for the raft at Palms Book. Scheduled to be installed in early May.
- Indian Lake toilet Building replacement and Palms Book parking lot improvement projects are in the process of hiring a consultant. Work to begin in 2024 and completion by 2026.
- Already receiving applications for STW's this summer.
- Two seasonal Rangers will be attending Parks and Recreation law academy in February.
- The construction crew from Lake Gogebic is scheduled to work on the walkway and dock in April at Palms Book State Park.
- Unseasonably warm winter has caused poor ice conditions on Indian Lake; therefore the dredging of the Southshore BAS site maybe postponed.
- The raft at the Big Springs is freezing to the dock more this winter than it has in the past.

Tahquamenon Falls State Park

- Lower Falls Concession Store Remodel/Replacement Project: The contractor has been mainly doing interior work in the bathroom building and park store during the winter months. Future concrete and paving work are on hold and will start back up again in the spring.
- Lower Falls Boat Concession/Island Redevelopment Project: Olsen & Olsen has completed all major work projects. A few smaller erosion areas will be addressed in the spring.
- Whitefish Point State Harbor Phase 1 Improvements: This project is in design with the project team looking at 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 hopeful that construction funding will be available in FY24.
- ARPA Projects: OHM-Advisors was selected as the Professional Services Consultant. A kickoff meeting was held one January 11th to review the project scopes, schedules, and work plans.
- The first Lantern Lit Snowshoe Trail Night was held on February 4th. This takes place every Saturday night in February.
- Until recently, mild winter conditions have made snowmobile trail conditions sloppy on some sections of trail that run through the park.

Straits State Park & Mackinac Island State Harbor

- Straits upper toilet shower buildings remain under construction through winter and into spring.
- Mackinac Island toilet shower building under construction through winter into next spring.
- Father Marquette preliminary designs nears phase 500.
- Straits completed interviews for vacant ranger position and is waiting to hear from HR to make conditional offer.
- No events planned at this time for winter.
- There are many walkers using the park on a daily basis for snowshoeing hiking and cross-country skiing. We still have not had enough snow to groom for skiing.
- Mackinac Island Harbor and Straits State Park upper campground will remain closed through June or until our projects can be substantially completed.

Muskallonge Lake State Park

- Kickoff meeting with consultant was held in January for several ARPA funded projects. Construction of new toilet/shower building could begin as soon as October 2023.
- Candidates are being reviewed for the vacant Ranger position with interviews to be set up for late February.
- Seasonal Rangers are all on winter furlough.
- Tahquamenon Country Sled Dog race was cancelled due to lack of snow and unsafe race-course conditions.

Newberry Field Office

- Milakokia Lake BAS Improvements: Design has been completed, funding has been secured, and getting prepped for bidding on the project.
- New backhoe has been ordered for the unit.
- New vault toilet buildings are being built.

Wildlife Division: Dave Lemmien, UP Wildlife Supervisor

- **UP Deer Camp Survey:** The Deer Camp Survey is a UP-wide cooperative effort between the DNR and numerous hunters for the 16-day regular firearm season. Survey materials were sent out to over 520 camp contacts before the firearm season to be completed and returned by cooperating hunters. 350 camps occupied by 1,334 hunters participated in this year's survey. DNR staff have completed data analysis and will have the finishing touches to the report completed within the next two weeks. The report will be distributed amongst participating deer camps, EUPCAC/WUPCAC and WLD staff will present report findings during future sportsmen coalition meetings. Results range from sighting rates to hunter success rates and hunter opinions. This information helps us better understand the size, trend, and composition of the deer herd and the issues that are important to hunters concerning deer management.
- **Deer Harvest Summary:** This year's mandatory harvest reporting is already providing substantial data, giving us an unprecedented level of detail into the specifics of Michigan's deer harvest. Currently the database is showing 303,087 harvested deer have been reported statewide through all deer seasons.
 - 23,768 harvested deer have been reported from the upper peninsula through all deer seasons (17,007 antlered, 6,761 antlerless).
 - The top 3 counties in the UP for harvest numbers through all seasons are: Menominee (5,406 total reported harvests), Delta (3,683 total reported harvests), and Iron (2,314 total reported harvests).
- **Furbearer Seasons:** The seasons listed below require mandatory registration of the harvest by the trapper. Fur must be submitted to be sealed and a skull must be submitted which will not be returned. Skulls should be skinned prior to registration.
 - Bobcat trapping season in the UP (October 25 to December 26) opened early this year and kill tags were only available through October 24th. Trapped harvest must be registered no later than January 5, 2023.
 - Bobcat hunting season in the UP is open January 1-March 1 and hunted harvest must be registered no later than March 11, 2023.
 - Fisher and Marten season is open December 2 – 11 and harvest must be registered no later than December 14, 2022.
 - Otter season in the UP is open October 25 – March 31 and harvest must be registered no later than April 10, 2023.
- **Moose Survey:** Wildlife Division recently completed an aerial winter moose survey to estimate population size. Despite unfavorable weather grounding DNR aircraft for several days at a time, we were able to complete the survey on Saturday, February 4th. WLD Research Staff are now analyzing the data and will have results available within the next few weeks. WLD will report the results to the EUPCAC at the April meeting with the assumption that most members will have read the published results by that time.
- **Hiring:** Wildlife Division currently has 2 vacancies within the UP Region, the Crystal Falls Biologist and the Soo Wildlife Technician. The hiring process for the Soo technician position is complete and the new technician will be starting on February 21st. The interviews for the Crystal Falls Biologist will be held the week of February 13th-17th. Once the biologist position is filled, Wildlife Division's UP Region will be at full capacity!

DNR Wildlife Habitat Grant application period now open



Now through March 16, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Habitat Grant Program will be accepting applications.

“We are excited to support those who want to increase habitat and enhance existing habitat through the Wildlife Habitat Grant Program,” said DNR Wildlife Division Chief Jared Duquette. “Healthy and abundant habitats not only benefit wildlife, but also benefit Michigan residents.”

Funding is available for local, state, federal and tribal governments, profit and nonprofit groups, and individuals through an open, competitive process. The minimum grant amount is \$15,000, and the maximum is the total amount of funds available for the grant cycle, which is approximately \$1 million for 2023.

The Wildlife Habitat Grant Program, which began in October 2013, is funded from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. The program's main objective is to enhance and improve the quality and quantity of wildlife species habitat in support of the [DNR Wildlife Division's strategic plan](#).

The grant program application period began Monday, and applications must be submitted through the [MiGrants system](#) no later than March 16 to be considered for funding. Successful grant applications will be announced in May. The detailed program handbook and more information are available at Michigan.gov/DNRGrants.