



Eastern & Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Councils DNR Division Reports for Annual Joint Meeting

Date of Production: October 5, 2022

This documentation is provided by Michigan DNR staff as a supplement to verbal reports which will be given to the Eastern & Western UPCAC at the October 2022 Joint UPCAC Meeting in Marquette.

Welcome to the Annual Joint Meeting of the EUPCAC & WUPCAC

U.P. 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.

October 4	Wildlife's UP Sportsperson Coalition, Bergland–Location TBD, 1pm
October 4	State Forest Compartment Review - Sault Ste. Marie Unit (call 906-477-6048, x2040)
October 5	Wildlife's UP Sportsperson Coalition, Baraga-Location TBD, 1pm
October 5	State Forest Open House - Newberry Unit (call 906-293-3293 x4740)
October 11	State Forest Compartment Review - Gwinn Unit (call 906-346-9201, x103)
October 12	Joint UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, 3-5pm, Marquette (call 906-226-1331)
October 13	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, 9am, Marquette (call 517-599-1067)
October 13	State Forest Compartment Review - Shingleton Unit (call 906-452-6227 x240)
October 25	State Forest Compartment Review - Newberry Unit (call 906-293-3293 x4740)
November 2	Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, 6pm, Escanaba (date may be changed to Nov. 1)
November 10	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing (call 517-599-1067)
December 7	Wildlife's UP Sportsperson Coalition, Marquette DNR Office, 6:00pm
December 8	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing (call 517-599-1067)
December 13	Wildlife's UP Sportsperson Coalition, Crystal Falls-Location TBD, 6pm Central
December 14	Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, 6pm, Newberry

U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities

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

October 7-9	Ice Fishing & Hunting Expo at UP State Fairgrounds – DNR POCKET PARK OPEN!
November 8	Michigan Iron Industry Museum Advisory Board Meeting

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers launch '100% whitefish' initiative (9/29/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: Plant these trees for spectacular fall color (9/29/22)
- Upcoming DNR public meetings; vacancies on nonmotorized trails workgroup, waterways commission (9/28/22)
- Keep safety in mind when hunting from a tree stand (9/28/22)
- DNR News: Gather 'Round blog, CO academy check-in, NotMiSpecies webinars (9/27/22)
- Straits and Cheboygan are first ARPA-funded projects to break ground (9/27/22)
- New season of 'Ask the DNR' begins Thursday on WNMU-TV13 (9/26/22)
- DNR to offer wild turkey forum next week in Marquette (9/22/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: Train my understanding (9/22/22)
- Showcasing the DNR: Always the right time to show state's trails some TLC (9/15/22)
- Introducing the 2022 deer patch – and where to get one (9/15/22)
- DNR's fall walleye surveys start later this month (9/15/22)
- Get inspired during Michigan Trails Week Sept. 18-25 (9/14/22)

- Yooper Troopers take on phragmites in the next NotMISpecies webinar (9/14/22)
- Small game hunting opener is Sept. 15 (9/13/22)
- DNR proposes increase to Chinook salmon stocking in Lake Michigan (9/12/22)

Grant Contacts

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

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant	Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov
Recreation Passport Grant	Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov
Aquatic Habitat Grant	Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, parkerk4@michigan.gov
Michigan Invasive Species Grant	Kammy Frayre, 517-284-5970, frayrek1@michigan.gov
Wildlife Habitat Grant	Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, parkerk4@michigan.gov
U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant	Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, scullonh@michigan.gov

U.P. DNR Customer Service Centers and Field Offices

Customer Service Centers have staff to answer questions, Monday-Friday, excluding holidays

Baraga Customer Service Center	906-353-6651	Ishpeming Field Office	906-485-1031
Esanaba Customer Service Center	906-786-2351	Naubinway Field Office	906-477-6048
Marquette Customer Service Center	906-228-6561	Norway Field Office	906-563-9042
Newberry Customer Service Center	906-293-5131	Sault Ste Marie Field Office	906-635-6161
Crystal Falls Field Office	906-875-6622	Shingleton Field Office	906-452-6227
Gwinn Field Office	906-346-9201	Stephenson Field Office	906-753-6406

September 2022 NRC Meeting Summary

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission met on September 8, 2022, at Lansing Community College in Lansing.

Committee of the Whole:

The Natural Resources Commission presented the Thomas L. Washington Award to Dr. Howard A. Tanner for a lifetime of conservation achievement. The inscription on the plaque reads as follows:

*In appreciation for his seven decades of Fisheries Management leadership, mentorship, and absolute dedication to Michigan's natural resources. His time spent at Michigan State University as Director of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources helped to train and inspire many young students to follow their passions in managing fish and wildlife around the world. His tireless work as DNR Fish Division Chief and DNR Director resulted in multiple high-profile clean-ups of contaminated sites, acquisition, and creation of unique public lands and waters, and transformed the Great Lakes fisheries, earning him the well-known title 'Father of the Great Lakes Recreational Fisheries.' Because of your passion, commitment, professionalism, skill, determination, intelligence, and integrity, Michigan's natural resources and its people are so much better. Dr. Howard Tanner, your lifetime contributions and positive impact to Michigan and conservation are truly spectacular. The Natural Resources Commission is proud to bestow this honor upon **Dr. Howard A. Tanner**, Sept. 8, 2022.*

Director's Report:

A hunter education 40 years of service award was presented to Douglas Strickling by Capt. Jennifer Wolf of the DNR Law Enforcement Division. He has supported the Belding Sportsman's Club for many years, dedicating countless volunteer hours to teaching and mentoring hunter education in Michigan.

Land use orders 6 and 7 were reviewed for the Crystal Waters State Game Area Designation and Rules and Silver Lake State Park ORV Area conditions for use and prohibited conduct by Zach Cooley of the DNR Wildlife Division and Nicole Hunt of the DNR's Parks and Recreation Division, respectively. Those orders were presented this month for information only, with action anticipated at a future meeting.

Seth Herbst of the DNR's Fisheries Division reviewed a range of proposed fisheries order changes for the commission.

A legislative report was provided for informational purposes (see below).

Presentations from the meeting, including the legislative report, real estate transactions and land use orders of the director are available by clicking on highlighted areas of the NRC agenda available at Michigan.gov/NRC.

Director's action: Director Dan Eichinger approved nine real estate transactions from Grand Traverse, Crawford, Delta, Mason, Tuscola, Jackson, Montmorency, Benzie and one involving Alger, Dickinson, Iron, Menominee and Schoolcraft counties.

Commission action: The NRC voted unanimously today on three fisheries orders.

- Fisheries Order 204.23 was approved, concerning spawning closures. The changes approved involve Denton Creek in Roscommon County, Au Sable River in Iosco County and Backus Creek in Roscommon County.
- Fisheries Order 206.23, which involved warmwater species on select waters was voted to be tabled until the October NRC meeting. One issue concerning musky on the Cisco Chain of Lakes in the Upper Peninsula will be reported on by DNR fisheries staff at next month's meeting in Marquette. The meeting also will provide opportunities for additional public comment before the issue is decided.
- Fisheries Order 215.23, which involved statewide warmwater regulations, was approved by the commission. Specifically, this order moved a provision previously contained in Fisheries Order 206.22 on walleye season on portions of the Saginaw River to this order to place it where other walleye regulations on this water are currently listed.
- Fisheries Order 226.23, which covered special fishing regulations to protect walleye during spawning runs in specific waters, was approved. Specifically, this order moved a provision previously contained in Fisheries Order 206.22 on walleye season on portions of the Saginaw River to this order to place it where other walleye regulations on this water are currently listed.

More details on each of these real estate transactions and fisheries orders is available by clicking on the individual orders in the meeting agenda at Michigan.gov/NRC.

The next meeting of the NRC is scheduled for Oct. 13 on the campus of Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

September 2022 DNR Legislative Updates

HB 6354 – Eliminate Penal Code Violation for Not Reporting a Deer Harvest within 72 Hours – Rep. 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 House Committee on Government Operations.
- 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.

Division Updates

Executive Division

Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy

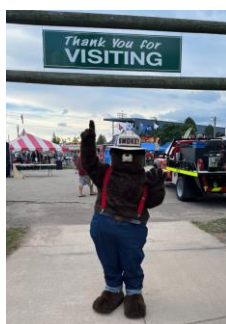
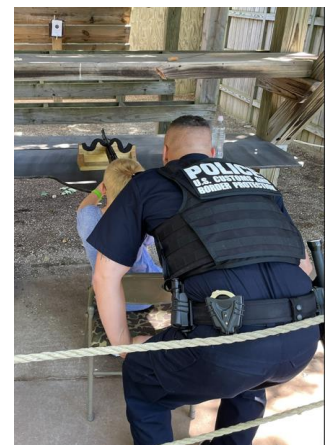
A special thank you to **current and former UPCAC members** who volunteered at the DNR Pocket Park during the UP State Fair in Escanaba. A total of 163 volunteers (a new record) spent their time with us. It was a FANTASTIC year, and we owe it all to our volunteers! Thank you all for taking time out of your day & summer to help kids enjoy our wonderful natural resources. (PS. Over 100,000 people attended the state fair, wow!)





A huge shout out to our special partners this year: Hiawatha & Ottawa National Forest staff, US Border Patrol in Sault Ste. Marie, Wheelin' Sportsman, Youth Works, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, DNR Fire Prevention staff, staff from many DNR divisions, Delta County Non-Motorized Trails Club, DNR LED Officers, Kathy Garland-DNR Archery Instructor, Kids Fishing Day Board Members, Bayshore Bait & Tackle, family, friends, and coworkers. Thank you everyone! See you next year (Aug 14-20, 2023)!
 -KRISTI & JO ANN, CO-COORDINATORS, DNR POCKET PARK

DNR Pocket Park at the UP State Fair - August 2022 Highlights



MANDATORY DEER REGISTRATION

The DNR [Deer Harvest Reporting](#) webpage contains the latest instructions and video how-to's for reporting deer harvest. The [Deer harvest reporting FAQs](#) have been updated as new questions came in. These hopefully will help you answer any questions you get from customers. On the back of every hunting license is a QR code and web address for hunters to easily access the reporting website.

Deer stations - technical assistance for reporting

Location information could change as the season progresses. Check back for the most up-to-date information during the season.

[2022 Deer Stations/Tech Assistance](#)

County	Location name	Location type	Address	Phone	Dates & hours open	Dates closed
Baraga	Baraga Customer Service Center	Technical assistance for mandatory reporting	427 US-41, Baraga, MI 49908	906-353-6651	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept. 12 through Nov. 18, Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm Nov. 19 through Dec. 2, 7 days/week, 8am to 5pm Dec. 5 through Jan. 6, Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm 	Nov. 8, 11, 24, 25 Dec. 23, 26 Jan. 2
Chippewa	Sault Ste. Marie Customer Service Center	Technical assistance for mandatory reporting	4131 South M-129, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783	906-635-6161	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept. 12 through Nov. 18, Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm Nov. 19 through Dec. 2, 7 days/week, 8am to 5pm Dec. 5 through Jan. 6, Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm 	Nov. 8, 11, 24, 25 Dec. 23, 26 Jan. 2
Delta	Escanaba Customer Service Center	Technical assistance for mandatory reporting	6833 US-2, 41 & M-35, Gladstone, MI 49837	906-786-2351	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept. 12 through Nov. 18, Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm Nov. 19 through Dec. 2, 7 days/week, 8am to 5pm Dec. 5 through Jan. 6, Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm 	Nov. 8, 11, 24, 25 Dec. 23, 26 Jan. 2
Dickinson	Norway Field Office	Technical assistance for mandatory reporting	500 West US-2 Norway, MI 49870	906-563-9077	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nov. 15 through Nov. 30, 7 days/week, 8am to 5pm 	Nov. 24-25
Dickinson	Norway Field Office	Staffed disease sample collection station and technical assistance for mandatory reporting	500 West US-2 Norway, MI 49870	906-563-9247	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept. 12 through Nov. 18, Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm Nov. 19 through Dec. 2, 7 days/week, 8am to 5pm Dec. 5 through Jan. 6, Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm 	Nov. 8, 11, 24, 25 Dec. 23, 26 Jan. 2, 7
Luce	Newberry Customer Service Center	Technical assistance for mandatory reporting	5100 State Hwy M-123, Newberry, MI 49868	906-293-5131	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept. 12 through Nov. 18, Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm Nov. 19 through Dec. 2, 7 days/week, 8am to 5pm Dec. 5 through Jan. 6, Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm 	Nov. 8, 11, 24, 25 Dec. 23, 26 Jan. 2
Marquette	Marquette Customer Service Center	Technical assistance for mandatory reporting	1990 US-41 South, Marquette, MI 49855	906-228-6561	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept. 12 through Nov. 18, Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm Nov. 19 through Dec. 2, 7 days/week, 8am to 5pm Dec. 5 through Jan. 6, Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm 	Nov. 8, 11, 24, 25 Dec. 23, 26 Jan. 2

For hunters who do not have access to the internet and/or cell phone within 72 hours of harvesting their deer, we have a [list of locations offering assistance](#). A hunter can call or stop in during posted hours and a DNR staff member – or participating partner – will assist with reporting the harvest. We also allow successful deer hunters to enlist the help of friends or family to access the harvest report website and submit information on their behalf.

Here are a couple videos available on YouTube for customers and as training for staff:

- [How to tag and report your deer](#)
- [How to report your deer harvest via mobile app](#)

If you are a DNR staff person looking for training beyond the info provided here, you can find additional resources through the [SOM Learning Center](#). Just log in and search for “deer” in the search box and you can access the 2022 deer season training curriculum.

One of the benefits of this new regulation – and a new feature within eLicense – is the ability for hunters to see the [Deer Harvest Report Summary](#), with up-to-date information on reported deer harvests.

Deer Patches

Deer patches will be sent out to field offices, customer service centers and conservation officers to give out at staff discretion. Please know that quantities for some locations may be reduced to prioritize locations where we want to incentivize submissions for disease testing (bovine tuberculosis and chronic wasting disease surveillance locations). The patches should arrive in the next week or two, as delivery was delayed due to supply chain issues with the vendors and shipping companies.



Also, beginning September 15, we will be selling the new 2022 deer patches on eLicense and the new Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app for \$8 each. We'll also be selling previous-year patches for \$8. All while quantities last!

Thanks to every single one of you who has played and will play a role in our deer hunting seasons this fall. There has been a lot of work planning—and even more work in the field once the seasons start—and we couldn't be successful without all of your contributions. – Kristin Phillips, Chief, Marketing & Outreach Division

DNR Public Information Office: John Pepin, Marquette

- On Sept. 29, we kicked off the new season of “Ask the DNR” on WNMU-TV13. We had four very capable DNR panelists who did a great job fielding questions live from the public. They included U.P. field deputy Stacy Welling-Haughey, wildlife biologist Brian Roell, fisheries biologist John Bauman and conservation officer Andrea Dani. The next show is scheduled for Nov. 3, when the big topic is certain to be deer hunting.
- I have recently been working as part of a team to produce the DNR’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, which is completed every five years for the National Park Service, linked to Land and Water Conservation Act funding. There are some very cool insights in this upcoming report on recreation across Michigan, survey results from the public at large and reports on some new and exciting digital tools. The plan will be available for public comment and review later this year.
- The DNR’s weekly Outdoors North column that I write for three Upper Peninsula newspapers (The Mining Journal in Marquette, the Houghton Daily Mining Gazette in Houghton and the Escanaba Daily Press in Escanaba) recently entered its eighth year in publication. How quickly time flies.
- Our Showcasing the DNR feature story series continues each Thursday. To see the story archive visit www.Michigan.gov/DNRStories. Please send story ideas and offers to contribute your writing to the increasingly popular statewide series to me at pepinj@michigan.gov. We are happy to work with new writers.

Finance & Operations Division

Michelle Zeller, Eastern UP

- The Eastern UP DNR offices are seeing an increase in calls and visitors, tis the fall season in Michigan. Inquiries such as fall fishing, bear registration, license sales, color questions, and clarification of rules and regulations. Customer service staff will be able to assist members of the public with the mandatory harvest registration.
- A new secretary was hired for the Sault Ste. Marie office due to the retirement of Mary Wollan. This office is now back to fully staffed.
- Conservation Officers are holding hunter safety classes in Engadine and Newberry, October 18-21 and the 23rd for the field day.
- Fiscal year 2022 ended September 30th, which requires a lot of funding close outs, deadlines for purchases and procurement, etc. Truly a team effort during this time.

Monthly Season Reminders – October 2022

- 10/1 Early archery deer season opens (through 11/14)
- 10/1 Raccoon hunting and trapping opens statewide
- 10/1 Last day to apply for the Fort Custer Freedom Hunt
- 10/8 Duck hunting opens in the Middle Zone
- 10/7 Archery bear season open in LP units (thru 10/13 – 7 days)
- 10/10 Pheasant opens in Zone 1, also Sharp Tailed Grouse (through 10/31, see maps p. 69-70)
- 10/13 Independence hunt for deer opens (through 10/16, see p. 44)
- 10/15 Fox and coyote trapping open statewide
- 10/15 Badger trapping open in Zone 1 & 2 (for open areas of Zone 1, see p. 4 of Fur Digest)
- 10/15 Gray & red fox hunting opens, duck hunting opener in the South Zone
- 10/20 Pheasant season open in Zone 2 & 3 (through 11/14)
- 10/20 Quail season opens, close date 11/14 (see list of open counties p. 66)
- 10/24 LAST DAY TO ACQUIRE BOBCAT KILL TAGS
- 10/25 Beaver/otter/bobcat, muskrat & mink trapping open in U.P.
- 10/26 Late bear seasons close in the U.P.
- 10/29 Woodcock season closes
- 10/31 Fishing seasons close on Type A and Type D trout lakes

Fisheries Division

The following report is being provided on of the following UP Fisheries Division staff for the period of July 21, 2022 to October 11, 2022.

Western UP Management Section

- Lake Superior Unit Basin Coordinator: Patrick Hanchin
- West Lake Superior Management Unit: George Madison

UP Northern Lake Michigan Management Section

- Lake Michigan Unit Basin Coordinator: Jay Wesley
- UP Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit: Darren Kramer, John Bauman, Jennifer Johnson

Eastern UP Management Section

- Lake Superior Unit Basin Coordinator: Patrick Hanchin
- East Lake Superior Management Unit: Cory Kovacs

UP Northern Lake Huron Management Unit

- Lake Huron Unit Basin Coordinator: Randy Claramunt
- UP Northern Lake Huron Management Unit (which includes the St. Mary's River watershed portion of the eastern UP): Neal Godby

Fisheries Research Section

- Research Unit: Dr. Edward Baker, Dr. Troy Zorn, Shawn Sitar

Fish Production Section

- Fish Production Unit Supervisor: Dan Sampson (Thompson, Oden, Marquette)



Current Events

- State fish hatcheries are conducting fall fish stockings, which include brook trout stockings from the Marquette hatchery and Lake Trout stockings from the Upper Peninsula Pendills Creek Federal fish hatchery.

Western Lake Superior Management Unit (George Madison, Western Lake Superior Biologist)

Staff have begun wrapping up the traditional 2022 field work season work of lake and stream surveys, and are in the midst of fall activities such as:

- Walleye recruitment surveys, referred to as Serns Index surveys, are electrofishing surveys that evaluate the level of walleye hatching and survival of juvenile fish produced from the springtime spawning event.
- Staff conducted Splake fin clipping at the Marquette State Fish Hatchery for Splake that are destined for Keweenaw Bay and Munising Bay next spring. Copper Harbor Splake will also be fin clipped before stocking next spring.
- An aged dam at the outlet of Beatons Lake, Watersmeet Township, was removed and the streambed and banks of the outlet river were returned to a natural-condition state.
- Lake Gogebic public meeting was held in the village of Marenisco to provide a summary of the spring fisheries survey.
- Inspections of state-owned dams have been underway. Future maintenance needs on some of these dams may require water-level drawdowns.

UP Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit (Darren Kramer, Unit Supervisor)

- MDNR and US FWS raised Lake Sturgeon collaboratively from May to September 2022. A total of 122, 5-to-6-inch Lake Sturgeon were tagged with PIT tags and released into the Cedar River on September 3rd 2022. This project is largely funded through the Fox River Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council.
- The fish lift at the Menominee Dam (Menominee River) was operated over 18 nights during September 6-24 by MDNR, FWS, and Eagle Creek Renewable Energy staff. A total of 213 lake sturgeon were captured with 147 lake sturgeon (56 females, 90 males, 1 unknown sex) passed upstream of the Menominee and Park Mill dams.

Eastern Lake Superior Management Unit (Cory Kovacs, Eastern Lake Superior Biologist)

- Fall index surveys for young of year walleye were conducted during the last week of September and first week of October. This nighttime electrofishing survey was conducted on area lakes including, Culhane Lake, Pike Lake, Pretty Lake, and Deer Lake (Alger County). Some lakes were a collaborative effort between the MDNR Fisheries Division, MDNR Tribal Coordination Unit, and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

- Fisheries Division has participated in the Forest Resources Division's Compartment Review Process. Compartment packet and prescription information can be found on the MDNR Forest Management webpage.
- Per the updated Department Policy and Procedure for Dam Management Guidelines, field staff has been completing visual inspections of Fisheries Division owned dams.
- Fisheries managers in the Lake Superior Unit have been overseeing grant funded projects across the Upper Peninsula. Projects include the Cedar Creek Road stream crossing (GLRI funding), Au Train Lake Habitat Improvement Project (Fisheries Habitat Grant), and Sucker River H-58 Crossing and Lamprey Barrier (multiple funding sources).

UP Northern Lake Huron Management Unit (Neal Godby, UP Northern Lake Huron Biologist)

- Members of the St. Marys River Fisheries Task Group completed the netting in August for the St. Marys River Fish Community Survey. This is the tenth survey in the series dating back to 1975. Member agencies will be aging the collected samples (scales, fin rays, etc.) and analyzing the catch data over the winter.
- A creel survey is ongoing in the St. Marys River and Whitefish Bay on both the U.S. and Canadian sides and will end October 31. Much has already been learned about the fishery present in these areas. The 2022 creel survey was the first creel ever conducted on the Whitefish Bay and the second creel on the Upper St. Marys River since 1999.

Marquette Fisheries Research Station (Dr. Edward Baker, Dr. Troy Zorn)

- Lake sturgeon in trailer at Bergland will be PIT tagged next week and stocked Oct 4.
- Marquette Research Station and USFWS Ashland staff will be acoustically tagging large brook trout in the Pilgrim River in early October as part of a study to better understand movements of the coaster population that spawns in the Pilgrim.
- The research vessel Lake Char crew put Pop-up satellite archival tags (PSATs) on lake trout at Lake Superior's Superior Shoal (~30 miles north of Copper Harbor). There were 21 lake trout tagged with PSATs and the tags will release from the fish in May 2023. Another tagging excursion at Superior Shoal is in the works for June 2023.

UP Fisheries Production Section (Dan Sampson, Hatchery Supervisor Thompson, Oden, Marquette)

- Muskies were transferred from Wolf Lake and arrived at Thompson on 8/13/22. There was a total of 42,000, approximately 4" long, which were split between four half acre ponds. Two were loaded with 12,000 while the other two had 9,000. This will give us a better idea of the true carrying capacity of the ponds and the impacts it may have on the pond chemistry.
- Steelhead grading is on-gong at Thompson, with large grade fish being transferred to the outdoor raceways. All fish are looking good, and goals will be met.
- Solar installation is planned for late spring at Thompson and Oden. Thompson will have roof mounted arrays on the production raceway buildings, while Oden's two arrays will be ground based. Before Thompson's are installed, we will replace the aged outer layer of the roofs. These projects are expected to offset 16% of the energy supplied to Thompson, 16% for Oden's main hatchery, and 76% of Oden's Isolation building.
- The Cherry Creek stabilization project at Marquette is close to being finished. Installation of the pre-cast concrete forms was finished in mid-September. Bypass pumping is expected to end on September 16. This project will lessen the probability of flooding in the hatchery, increase our biosecurity by allowing the channel to be cleaned, stabilize the stream banks to ensure they are intact, and make it much safer for staff during high flow events.
- The second year-class of Arctic Grayling brood are expected to pass their final health exam, allowing them to be transferred out of containment at Oden and to Marquette in mid-October.

Forest Resources Division

Scott Lakosky, Eastern UP Supervisor

- Timber Sales
 - 1) Newberry FMU
 - 5 sales offered for bid, 3 of which sold, 2 went unsold where 1 was picked up for minimum. 1-3 bidders on each sale. Sales sold ranged from 1-52 % over minimum bid prices.
 - Upland sales are drawing most interest. Lowland sales are drawing very limited interest. The chipping market has returned, one producer has started chipping wood for fuelwood, appears to mostly driven by the high cost of high fossil fuel and the demand for alternate energy sources.

- Timber sale harvesting activity has been average for this time of year. Currently Newberry has 9 active timber sales.
- FY 22 timber sale prep is nearly complete and harvest proposals are being drafted for bid. Newberry prepared approximately 4,000 acres this FY.
- 2) Sault Ste. Marie FMU
 - Naubinway Office – 5 sales were offered for bid, all of which sold
 - Sault Office - 5 sales were offered, 3 of which were no bid: Hiawatha GNA sale – no bid
 - Lower than normal activity across the unit. Pine is moving best with some hardwood activity.
- 3) Shingleton FMU: No sales have been sold since the last CAC report. Activity is strong in hardwoods.
- Forest Inventory
 - 1) All EUP FMUs are wrapping up the 2024 YOE inventory cycle and all field work is complete. Pre-Inventory meetings have been scheduled and work will begin on the 2025 YOE later this fall.
 - 2) Newberry's Open House is scheduled for Oct 5th at 3:00-7:00 pm at the Newberry Field Office. Public comment via the Mi State Forest Application is open until Oct 5th.
 - 3) Sault Ste Marie FMU open house was held in September. Compartment review scheduled for October 4, 2022 at 9:00 am at the Sault Ste Marie Office.
 - 4) Shingleton FMU held their Open House meeting in September and had 1 attendee. Compartment Review is scheduled for October 27, 2022 at 9:00 am at the Shingleton Office.
- Cultivation
 - 1) Scarification
 - Contract scarification work is ongoing. The contractor has one block/project to complete in the Paradise area. They hope to be done by end of next week. Actual scarified acreages on each block/project are being approved and invoiced currently.
 - 2) Herbicide Work – all contracted.
 - 34.4 acres of skidder release work – Was not completed – lost the window to spray – moved site to Pre-Commercial Thinning (PCT) in 2023.
 - Skidder Site prep work is completed for the EUP. A total of 160.2 acres was completed.
 - 3) Trenching
 - Sault Ste Marie Unit has completed roughly 155 acres across west Mackinac County.
 - Newberry Unit has completed roughly 578 acres across Luce County.
 - Shingleton Unit has completed 324 acres across Schoolcraft County.
 - 4) Roller chopping
 - Sault Ste Marie Unit has completed 213 acres in Mackinac County.
 - Newberry Unit has completed 208 acres across Luce County.
 - Shingleton Unit is currently working on roller chopping sites.
 - 5) Pre-Commercial Thinning (PCT – release work on RP and also oak)
 - EUP has 7 sites for PCT work totaling 199.2 acres
 - Newberry Unit = 3 sites completed for 96.2 acres
 - Sault Unit = 2 sites completed for 53.3 acres
 - All sites completed to date have shown very good results.
 - 6) RX Burning: No cultivation RX burns have been completed in 2022.
- Fire
 - 1) Some staff members are currently out of state on fire assignments to assist in fire suppression efforts in various parts of the country
 - 2) Fire Officers from the Soo along with Smokey Bear attended the EUP United Way Backpack Drive. Over 500 kids received a backpack and school supplies. Also attended the Sugar Island Fire Department Open House.
 - 3) Non-career Fire Officer is done working. Hired mid-May through end of September 2022.
 - 4) Sault Ste Marie Fire Supervisor attended the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact Meeting in Traverse City, MI. Staff from the MIDNR, MNDNR, WIDNR, Manitoba and Canada MNR were also in attendance.
- Road and Bridge
 - 1) Newberry FMU
 - Recently replaced a failing culvert on the Charcoal Grade near Atwood Creek Road.
 - Unplugged several culverts along the Charcoal Grade that were plugged by beavers, work continues.

- Re-graveled a small portion to the Camp 7 Road and removed a large rock that was surfacing in the center of road causing damage to vehicles.
 - Currently soliciting for contractor bids to replace the Murphy Creek Bridge along Murphy Creek Trail.
 - The Penny Creek, Savage Creek, Linton Creek and Otto Brandt Creek crossings along the Charcoal Grade and Camp 7 Road are being redesigned with hopes getting them reconstructed in the near future.
 - The Chris Brown Lake Road was recently repaired by reshaping sections of the road that had been under water. The reshaped road was capped with 1,100 yards of gravel. This will improve the road for future logging activities and public access.
 - The Pullup Lakes Road is currently being worked to improve it by reshaping bad sections and capping with 500 yards of gravel. This will also improve the road for future logging activities and public access.
- 2) Sault Ste Marie FMU
- Spile Dam Rd Project has been awarded to Norris Construction from Sault Ste. Marie
 - Pre-construction meeting is 9/27 and project to be completed before 9/15/23
 - A large piece of the Soo Unit has been completed for Culvert and Bridge Inventory. Work is ongoing between DNR staff and Trout Unlimited
 - ORV clubs is doing some work on Caffey and Prout Roads with some local DNR assistance.
- 3) Shingleton FMU
- Tracks crossing was completed in Thompson Plains as part of an ORV Restoration Grant
 - Trail 8 was completed
 - Petrel Road over 2 miles of road improved and 1000 yards of purchased gravel was put down.
 - Beaver View project- work continues in anticipation of setting a temporary bridge to access timber.
- Facilities: The roof over the fire garage in Shingleton will be getting a silicone coating, the project was put out to bid and awarded in August.
 - Forest Health: The forest health program held an oak wilt training session for forest resources and wildlife division staff in the U.P. to increase awareness of the issue and the risk to the oak resource across the U.P.
 - Land use
 - 1) Garden transfer station is complete.
 - 2) Land exchange completed with Drummond Dolomite and some small land locked inholding have been purchase. Land auction (on-line) took place for state land declared surplus in Mackinac and Chippewa Counties in August.
 - Training
 - 1) Several foresters participated in Michigan Forest Habitat Type Classification (Kotar) training
 - 2) 2 Foresters and 1 Non-Career FO completed S-131 (Wildland Firefighter-Squad Boss) training
 - Forest Certification: No report.
 - Vacancies: Current FRD vacancies in the EUP: 2 Forest Technicians, 1 Forester, 1 Service Forester, 1 Fire Officer, 1 Fire Officer Supervisor. No new hires or transfers. The Newberry Fire Supervisor is currently being filled by and acting assignment.

Tom Seablom, Western UP Supervisor

- Field work on the 2024 YOE Inventory has been completed. Field work for the 2025 YOE Inventory season started in October. Open House and Compartment Review schedules for the 2025 YOE will be posted online along with other state forest inventory information at: Michigan.Gov/Forestry.
- As of September 28th, 292 timber sale contracts are open WUP Wide. This represents 875,171 cords of timber on 49,592 acres, valued at approximately \$33 million. Included in this are 20 GNA sales representing 69,887 cords of timber on 4,301 acres, valued at approximately \$2.4 million. As September 13th, 8 sales are available WUP Wide for the minimum advertised price. This represents 9,902 cords of timber. Find more information on State Forest timber sales at: Michigan.Gov/Timber
- WUP Units are reporting 36 Active Timber Sales in the WUP totaling about 5,303 acres. Units report good demand for hardwood sawtimber and improving demand for pulpwood in some areas (Baraga) with below normal demand in other areas (Escanaba).
- Units have been focusing of finishing the 2022FY timber harvest plan with about 13,000 acres prepared for treatment. In addition, units and contractors have been working on road and bridge improvement projects across the west U.P.

- This fall the forest health program is identifying new oak wilt infections and prioritizing treatments in Menominee county after storm damage in June resulted in new oak wilt infections. Staff held an oak wilt training session for forest resources and wildlife divisions in the west UP to increase awareness of the issue and the risk to the oak resource across the U.P.
- The Commercial Forest Program is inspecting enrolled CF parcels for compliance. For more information on the Commercial Forest Program go to Michigan.Gov/Commercialforest.

Law Enforcement Division

Lt. Ryan Aho, District Law Supervisor (Western UP/District 1)

- **COs Jenni Hanson and Zach Painter** taught a hunter safety course in Gogebic County. With the help of a recreation safety volunteer instructor, 50 students successfully passed the course and earned their hunter safety certificate. Involved with the instruction were Sgt. Marc Pomroy, Sgt. Brian Bacon, and COs Jared Ferguson, Cody Smith, and Byron Parks.
- **CO Jenni Hanson** was invited to GLIFWC's summer camp 'Career Day' at Camp Nesbitt. Along with a US Forest Service law enforcement officer, CO Hanson showed off her equipment such as patrol truck and four-wheeler. Tribal children from eleven different tribes, and three different states, attended the summer camp and had great questions and interactions with the officers.
- **COs Brian Lasanen, Byron Parks and Sgt. Pomroy** investigated a complaint of a group of bear hound hunters who were trespassing. After identifying the suspects, multiple interviews were conducted. It was determined that the bear was shot by an unlicensed hunter while the group was trespassing. The trophy size bear hide was seized from the subjects. A warrant request will be submitted for the licensing violations along with trespassing.
- **CO Zach Painter** was on patrol in Gogebic County and responded to the call of a boat stranded on Lake Superior. The location given was described as somewhere between Black River Harbor and Saxon Harbor in Wisconsin. CO Painter with the assistance of a Michigan State Police trooper located the stranded boat several miles from Black River Harbor. There were two subjects on board unable to get their motor to work. The officers were able to tow the boat safely back into the harbor.
- **COs Jeremy Sergey and John Kamps** received information that an individual harvested a bear in the Amasa hunt unit. It was reported that the individual had a Baraga hunt unit bear tag. The COs were only provided a general location of where the individual was camping. After searching for some time, the COs located the individual camping on state land with two other bear hunters. A short investigation revealed the two other hunters were also hunting in the Amasa hunt unit with Baraga hunt unit licenses. The COs obtained a confession that the bear was harvested in the Amasa unit. The bear was seized, and the case is open, pending prosecution in the Baraga County Court.
- **CO Jeremy Sergey** received a complaint that an individual was letting his four dogs run freely on state land in an area frequented by waterfowl hunters. The dogs were jumping on hunters actively engaged in waterfowl hunting. When CO Sergey patrolled the area, he spotted the suspect who again, had four dogs that were running freely. A citation was issued for not having the dogs on a leash.
- **COs Jeremy Sergey and John Kamps** participated in the 2022 Law Enforcement Torch Run in Marquette raising money for the special Olympics.
- **CO Phil Helminen** investigated a complaint from the Report All Poaching center of waterfowl being taken out of season in Iron County. CO Helminen contacted a witness and collected the waterfowl that had been shot. COs Helminen and Alex VanWagner went to the suspect's residence and interviewed him about the incident. The suspect admitted to shooting waterfowl out of season. A report was forwarded to the Iron County Prosecutor for charges of taking waterfowl out of season.
- **COs Phil Helminen, Jared Ferguson, and Alex VanWagner** attended a hunter safety field day at the Sagola Sportsman's Club in Dickinson County. The COs provided instruction to the students on hunting laws and safety. The COs also answered question that the students had related to hunting.
- **CO Phil Helminen** was conducting marine patrol when he observed three men fishing on a boat. CO Helminen observed one man catch a northern pike and place the fish in a live well in the boat. CO Helminen contacted the anglers and found that the man who had caught the fish did not have a fishing license. A citation was issued.
- **CO Brian Lasanen, Sgt. Marc Pomroy and CPL Tom Peterson** assisted DNR fire staff with a fire on Manitou Island in Keweenaw County. The wildfire started from a campfire re-light and spread to nearly ten acres. For multiple days, the COs provided boat transportation for fire staff working to contain the fire.
- While assisting DNR fire staff with a fire on Manitou Island, **CO Brian Lasanen** and the fire staff were diverted to a second fire near Copper Harbor. A campfire at a deer camp spread to the adjacent woods and was spreading quickly. CO Lasanen utilized his patrol boat to bring fire staff to the second fire site ten miles away.
- **CO Jeremy Sergey** received a complaint that an individual had dumped cut trees and household trash on state land. The complainant was able to obtain the suspects license plate. After a short investigation, CO Sergey obtained a confession from the individual. A citation was issued for litter.
- **CO John Kamps** checked a boat full of anglers on the Dead River Basin in Marquette County. Only one of the four subjects actively fishing could produce a Michigan fishing license. Three subjects were issued citations for fishing without a license.

- **CO Jackson Kelly** was working the James Jeske Flooding and noticed several hunters were staying out until very late in the morning. COs John Kamps and Jeremy Sergey arrived with a boat and all three COs headed out to check the hunters. Upon contact, one subject was acting suspiciously. That subject's firearm was found to be unplugged. A blue wing teal he had shot was confiscated and he was issued a ticket for hunting waterfowl with an unplugged shotgun.

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

- With fall in full swing, officers are running in many directions with bear season, small game, waterfowl, fish runs and archery deer all going on. Officers have received many complaints from bear hunters with the opening day once again being pushed even earlier in the month. With hot temperatures, many hunters were not hunting even though they had waited almost 10 years for a coveted first season tag. Those that did hunt fought mid-80 temps and many bears spoiled before they were even brought in for registration. Lack of experience and common sense accounted for a lot of the spoiled animals. One hunter on an 80-degree day shot a bear early in the afternoon and after driving it around in the back of his truck for over 3 hours still had not gutted the animal or iced it down. Another subject had a bear in the back of his truck for 3 days, again with temps in the 80s, the bear was green and rotting, yet the hunter still thought he was going to have a bear rug done and a lot of sausage made. Officers are strongly suggesting that, number one, the opening of the season should fall later in the month instead of earlier and secondly, there should be a mandatory online course for anyone who is successful in the drawing before they can obtain a kill tag, the same as is done for successful elk applicants.
- There have been many moose sightings recently in the district including two bulls killed by vehicle strikes, one in the Sault and one in Deerton, both were recovered by officers and processed for food bank donation.
- Our LED CO Academy is going well with the school recently hitting the halfway mark.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 7-25-2022- 8-07-2022

- **COs Andrea Dani and Brandon Maki** were parked in their patrol truck in Grand Marais. The COs were watching for illegal ORV operation on a state highway due to multiple complaints. Once parked it was only a few minutes before a side by side turned off State Highway M77 and made its way toward COs Dani and Maki. The side by side continued past the patrol vehicle after CO Maki used a hand signal indicating to stop. CO Maki activated his overhead emergency lights and initiated a stop. COs contacted the occupants of the side by side, advised the operator they were illegally operating on a state highway, and of the need stop when signaled by an officer. The operator of the vehicle was cited for the illegal operation and was directed to take the trails and county roads back to his residence.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** assisted the US Forest Service, Alger County Sheriff's Department, Rescue 21 Team, and Michigan State Police with the search for a 16-year-old male. The juvenile was reported missing when his vehicle was located unattended at the Forest Lake boat launch and his boat was found adrift in the lake. After several hours of searching the area, the deceased juvenile was recovered from the lake. CO Maki transported divers to the location who were able to recover the subject.
- **CO Michael Evink** conducted a patrol of the annual Manistique Trout and Salmon derby. The tournament boasted over 300 registered fisher people. Compliance was high and no tickets were issued. CO Evink did receive appreciation for his presence during the event.
- While on marine patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn and Cpl. Mike Hammill** checked a salmon fisherman that appeared to have too many lines. As the COs approached, they counted 8 lines and 2 fishermen. When asked how many lines they had out, the operator stated 8 lines and could not remember if it was 3 or 4 per person. A citation was issued for fishing too many lines.
- While off duty at his residence, **CO Freeborn** received a call from the local PD regarding a lost boater on the Manistique River. Upon gathering the possible location of the subject, CO Freeborn returned to work to assist MSP and the local Sheriff's Department. As CO Freeborn was en route to the area, he learned that the missing boater was in a paddle boat and became separated from the rest of their party. At approximately 11:30 PM, the boater was found in good condition and was returned to his friends.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** conducted several marine safety and Aquatic Invasive Species patrols on inland lakes in Delta County. Several contacts were made, and 1 citation was issued to an angler for fishing without a license.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was on ORV patrol when he encountered an ORV on the Escanaba Hermansville trail without proper permits. A traffic stop was conducted, and the operator was given a citation for operating an ORV without a permit and a warning for operating without a trail permit.
- **CO Steve Butzin** responded to a domestic disturbance in Masonville Township where he assisted the Delta County Sheriff's Department. Once CO Butzin was on scene, he observed that a male subject had taken several items from the residence which belonged to a female who lived at the residence and was burning them in the back yard. Ultimately a citation was issued to the male subject for burning without a permit and additional charges are being sought by the sheriff's department.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was patrolling the St Marys River when he observed a pontoon boat with multiple occupants fishing. CO Sumbera observed a lady fishing and even observed her attempt to set the hook while fishing, as he approached, she set her fishing rod down and took a seat in the back of the vessel. CO Sumbera asked to see everyone's fishing license and the individual that set their pole down when CO Sumbera approached claimed she was assisting her kids. After CO Sumbera explained that he had observed her fishing for several minutes. CO Sumbera asked to see the fishing rod used by the individual and her son stated, "mom you used both of these rods". A citation was issued for fishing without a license.

- **CO Todd Sumbera and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were conducting a marine patrol when they contacted an individual fishing from a kayak without a personal flotation device (PFD) on board and did not have his fishing license on his person. While explaining the importance of having a PFD on board the individual asked, "what is a PFD?" CO Sumbera educated what a PFD is and issued a citation for failing to have one on board and gave the man a verbal warning for not having his fishing license on his person while fishing.
- **CO Todd Sumbera and Sgt. Calvin Smith** came across a boat that was operating in one of the small bays along Drummond Island. The vessel was displaying a registration from 1983. A stop was made on the boat and CO Sumbera explained the reason for the stop to the boat operator. The man replied, its registered, my wife forgot all the registration decals back at our home. CO Sumbera asked the man again if he was sure the boat was registered and he replied, "yes till 2023." A quick check through Statin 20 found that the vessel was indeed expired and had been for many years. A citation was issued for operating a motorboat with an expired registration.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol of northern Luce County when a small pickup truck passed him with 5 individuals in the back in lawn chairs. As CO VanOosten turned around to address the violation, he observed a beer can be thrown from the vehicle and land in a mud puddle. Upon contact CO VanOosten determined that a small child was riding in the back of the pickup truck despite having a child seat properly fastened inside the vehicle. The driver admitted to throwing the beer can out the window upon seeing the officer. A citation was issued to the driver for litter and the child was safely fastened into the child seat inside.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on patrol in western Chippewa County when he observed an ORV traveling the opposite direction with no visible ORV license. CO Olesen made a stop on the vehicle and discovered that neither the operator nor the passenger were wearing their safety belts. CO Olesen explained that safety belts are required to be worn by Michigan law and cited the operator for failing to obtain an ORV license.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 8-8-2022 - 8-22-2022

- **CO Chris Lynch** instructed Emergency Vehicle Operations at the Michigan State Police Drive Track to current and new Conservation Officers.
- **CO Chris Lynch** conducted several marine safety and Aquatic Invasive Species patrols on the Little and Big Bay De Noc and inland lakes in Delta County. Several contacts were made can compliance was high.
- All district officers took shifts working the U.P.-State Fair at the Pocket Park and interacted with several fair goers during the week-long event. Officers answered many questions regarding conservation related laws and changes in effect for this year and had many positive contacts with individuals, families and youth attending the event.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was patrolling the waters of Little Bay de Noc checking fishermen during a local sport fishing tournament. CO Butzin encountered one fisherman registered in the tournament that was fishing without a license, that individual was cited. Overall, the walleye bite in Little Bay de Noc has been picking up.
- **COs Chris Lynch, Steve Butzin,** and DNR Staff Jo Ann Alexander as well as Kari Diffenderfer conducted a Hunter Safety Field Day at the Pocket Park in Escanaba, MI. The class resulted in 24 students receiving their hunter safety certificate.
- **CO Andrea Dani** assisted with scenario-style training with the NMU Regional Police Academy. The recruits were sent through a series of basic scenarios and received input on their actions from participating officers.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Brandon Maki** located a tree stand left up on state land in Alger County. Shortly after, the COs received a call from the owner. The hunter was given a warning for leaving the tree stand out on state land.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was patrolling on his ORV near the Forest Lake Basin. CO Maki had just finished his ORV patrol and started to make his way back to one of the main roads in his patrol truck when he came around a corner and observed two adults and one juvenile who appeared to be in distress. One of the adults ran to CO Maki and advised they were part of a scout's group, and the juvenile was having an allergic reaction. CO Maki requested EMS and transported the juvenile and one chaperon to the ambulance.
- **CO Brandon Maki** assisted the Michigan State Police and Alger County Sheriff's Department with the recovery of a person who had been missing for approximately two weeks. The terrain where the individual had been found was very muddy and had deep water holes nearby where the individual's vehicle had been left. CO Maki used his patrol truck and ORV to find an alternate route for the tow company.
- While on patrol checking inland lakes, **CO Robert Freeborn** observed a vehicle in front of him with an expired plate from almost a year ago. After confirming the expired plate through dispatch, an enforcement stop was made. The driver admitted to forgetting to renew his plate. A citation was issued for the expired plate.
- **CO Michael Evink** responded to an abandoned trailer complaint in Alger County. The trailer was reported to have been in the same location for the past two years. CO Evink located the trailer and used the license plate to identify the owner. The following day CO Evink along with CO Cole VanOosten contacted the owner of the trailer. The trailer owner worked for the timber company that owned the property where the trailer was located. It was determined the trailer owner had permission to store the trailer where it was located. He stated he would be removing the trailer soon.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on marine safety patrol of Mackinac County when he received a call of an 87-year-old man with dementia who had walked away from his residence and not returned for approximately 2 hours. CO VanOosten was first on scene and was able to gather information from a family member before attempting to track the man. CO VanOosten was able to track the man through the woods for approximately 30 minutes before additional units arrived. Officers located tracks as well as discarded items that the man had dropped as he ate a candy bar, he had with him. The man was located after approximately a 7-hour search and had traveled

approximately 1.2 miles into an area of dense vegetation. The man had lost his shoes during his venture and was extremely thankful to see the officers. CO VanOosten carried the man out of the woods to a nearby two track where CO Justin Vinson provided him with a ride back to the residence where the man was determined to be in good condition and needed no additional medical assistance. Other agencies involved included the Mackinac County Sheriff's Office and the Michigan State Police.

- **COs Cole Vanoosten, Justin Vinson, Todd Sumbera, and Sgt. Calvin Smith** conducted a group ORV patrol on Drummond Island to address several complaints of illegal ORV operation. The COs issued 8 citations that consisted of operate an ORV with no helmet, operate an ORV on a state Hwy, and for operating an ORV in a closed area.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on marine safety patrol of Mackinac County when he encountered a group returning from a day of fishing. Upon contact one individual stated that they had some luck and had caught some perch, a bass and a 15" walleye. Upon checking the fish, it was determined that the group was in possession of three walleye less than 15". A citation was issued to the man who had caught the fish for possession of a walleye less than 15 inches.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** attended a conference put on by the Michigan Moose Organization. CO VanOosten received a donation on behalf of the Division from the charitable organization which will be used towards future hunter education efforts. CO VanOosten also spoke to approximately 300 members thanking them for the donation to the Department of Natural Resources and provided several answers regarding recent regulation changes.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was patrolling salmon fisherman on Lake Huron when he observed a boat with a single occupant fishing with 4 lines. CO Sumbera approached the individual and asked if anyone else was on board the boat, the suspect stated no. CO Sumbera then asked if he was aware that you are allowed to fish with no more than three lines per person, the suspect stated "yeah, I know". A citation was issued for fish too many lines

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 8-23-2022 - 9-5-2022

- **CO Brandon Maki and Sgt Mark Zitnik** were on an ORV patrol when they came across a pickup truck parked near a river. COs approached the truck on foot and observed multiple 5-gallon buckets in the box which appeared to be used for baiting bear. As COs observed the buckets, an individual yelled from the nearby river. The individual was seen with a fishing rod and a bag in his possession. COs approached the man, when contact was made the subject did not have a fishing rod or bag in his possession. The man claimed he was just wading in the river messing around. Upon further questioning and a search of the river, it was discovered the man had thrown his fishing rod in the river and attempted to hide his bag that contained two brook trout. The man was cited for fishing without a license and given a warning for littering to state waters.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was patrolling Garden Township when he encountered a vehicle with an improper plate. A traffic stop was conducted on the operator who remembered CO Butzin from an ORV pursuit that the individual was involved in several years prior. The operator had an expired/improper registration, no insurance, was driving while his license was suspended, and had a valid child support warrant. After posting bond for the warrant the operator was cited for several motor vehicle violations.
- **CO Steve Butzin and Cpl Mike Hammill** were patrolling Little Bay de Noc, it seemed that the walleye bite was picking up and fishermen were happy to finally be catching fish again. One boater was issued a citation for operating a watercraft with an expired registration that had been expired since 2017.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was at the Kipling Boat Access Site checking marine safety equipment when a vehicle pulled in the parking lot and slowly drove past CO Butzin. The registration on the vehicle was expired and the driver seemed to be nervous. The driver parked his vehicle and waited until CO Butzin began speaking with several boaters before leaving the parking lot. CO Butzin followed the vehicle that was doing approximately 65MPH in a 45MPH zone. Once CO Butzin got close the vehicle pulled into a private drive, through a back yard, and back onto another road. A traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle. The driver had an out-of-range warrant, an expired vehicle registration, no insurance, and the operator's license was expired. The driver was cited for the expired vehicle registration and using a State Access without a recreational passport, warnings were given for the other violations.
- **CO Chris Lynch** instructed Emergency Vehicle Operations at the Michigan State Police Drive Track to the Conservation Officers recruits going through Recruit School 11.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** were on patrol when they checked a boating access site. They observed two anglers fishing from the dock and upon checking the anglers CO Lynch noticed several smallmouth bass in a 5-gallon bucket. CO Lynch asked the anglers if they had any luck and both anglers said they caught and kept at least a few smallmouth bass each. Upon measuring the fish in the bucket it was determined that there were 7 smallmouth bass, and all bass were under the 14-inch legal size. The fish were as small as 6 inches. Both anglers received a citation for possession of undersize smallmouth bass.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin** were on marine patrol when they checked a boat with three anglers in it. One angler did not have a current fishing license and received a citation for fishing without a license.
- **CO Michael Evink** assisted MSP with a motorcycle vs deer accident on a county road. CO Evink assisted with scene safety, relayed patient condition, and provided emergency lights for the accident.
- **CO Michael Evink** assisted MSP and Sault Tribal officers with a vehicle that drove off US 2. CO Evink helped contain the individual from running into traffic on the highway while waiting for EMS and MSP coming from Delta County.

- With Manistique Public Safety / EMS and MSP handling the previous accident, **CO Evink** and Sault Tribal officer responded to a domestic violence incident in Manistique. The officers were able to secure the scene and provide support until MPS officers were able to follow up on the incident.
- **CO Michael Evink** was called in on his day off late in the evening to respond to a complaint of overdue horseback riders at a remote campsite in the Hiawatha Forest. CO Evink responded with MSP and were able to contact the riders who had recently arrived back at their campsite and were fine.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Todd Sumbera** patrolled northern Chippewa County assisting Tahquamenon State Park during the busy holiday weekend. ORV activity was very busy and during the patrol the officers observed a side by side doing donuts in the intersection of two county roads. A citation was issued for operating in a carless manor.
- **CO Justin Vinson** observed two side by sides operating on the shoulder of M-123, a state highway. Upon stopping the vehicles it was discovered one was without a valid ORV license. A citation was issued for operating an ORV without a license and warnings were given for operating on a state highway.
- **CO Justin Vinson** responded to a safety zone complaint involving the waterfowl hunters. CO Vinson interviewed the complainant, multiple witnesses, and the suspects. The investigation is still on going.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was conducting an ORV patrol when he observed three side by sides turn onto M-134 and drive past a sign posted "NO ORV's". Upon making contact the subjects stated that they knew it was not lawful to operate on a state highway and they also stated that they knew the ORV trail they were supposed to use was located on the road they turned off. A citation was issued for operating on a public highway.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was notified of the closing of a walleye spearing case from spring 2021. A total of 26 walleye were speared on Drummond Island totaling 108 lbs 8 oz. The two suspects were both found guilty and paid \$2,360 in restitution along with an additional \$1,260 dollars in fines and costs. Both suspects also had their fishing privileges revoked for three years.
- **COs Cole VanOosten and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were patrolling a lake in Mackinac County when they observed a vessel operating without a valid registration. A citation was issued for operating a motorboat without a valid registration and a warning was given for failing to transfer ownership with the Secretary of State within 15 days of purchase.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was notified of the closing of a case regarding the illegal taking of a black bear in Chippewa County in the fall of 2020. The individual took a plea to complete 40 hours community service, pay restitution of 3,500.00 for the bear, and was sentenced to probation for 2 years.
- **COs Mike Olesen and Todd Sumbera** held a hunters education field day at the Chippewa County Shooting Association. There were 12 individuals who passed the test at the beginning of the field day, shot multiple action 22-caliber rifles along with a 20-gauge shotgun. Students then moved and participated in proper stages covering proper firearm handling, tree stand safety, fire making, and general hunting safety.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on ORV patrol when a call from Luce County Central dispatch was received of a capsized boat in a small inland lake. CO VanOosten was nearly an hour away but responded to the area with a small boat. CO VanOosten was able to locate the two individuals who had been in the water for nearly an hour and a half and were clinging to the side of their overturned boat. The men were able to shine their phone flashlights to signal for help. The men were extremely happy to see the officer. CO VanOosten loaded the men into the boat and assessed them for medical issues. Both men were showing signs of exhaustion and one man displayed early signs of hypothermia. The men declined medical attention once back at the dock and warmed up.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 9-6-2022 - 9-18-2022

- **CO Brandon Maki and Sgt Mark Zitnik** checked a successful bear hunter who had just shot a bear. The hunter had all the proper licensing and showed officers the video footage he took during the hunt. COs assisted the hunter in tracking the bear. After a short track, COs helped the hunter get the bear to an access point before clearing.
- **CO Andrea Dani** was on patrol in Alger County after shooting hours when she observed a truck with wailing hounds. CO Dani approached the driver. Upon checking the driver's rifle, CO Dani found that it was loaded with three rounds. The driver was issued a citation for a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.
- **CO Andrea Dani** observed a four-wheeler trail with several pieces of equipment at the beginning of the trail. CO Dani followed the tracks until she located a bear bait and a rifle bear hunter in a tree stand with no hunter orange. CO Dani contacted the hunter, who also did not have his bear license on his person. CO Dani gave him a warning for the hunter orange and cited him for no hunting license on his person.
- **CO Steve Butzin** checked several bear hunters who were in violation of establishing/tending an illegal bear bait during the 2022 and 2021 bear season as the bait was placed prior to 31 days before open season and barrels with holes larger than an inch were used on private property. One hunter was issued a citation for tending the illegal bait
- **CO Chris Lynch and Sgt. Mark Zitnik** were on patrol when they came across a group of houndsman. Upon checking the group one of the members of the group owned dogs that were participating in the hunt, and he failed to obtain a no kill bear tag to participate. A citation was issued for the violation.
- **CO Chris Lynch and Sgt. Mark Zitnik** were on patrol checking small game hunters when a truck slow rolling down a gravel road approached the officers. Contact with the driver was made and an uncased shotgun was observed in the vehicle. The hunter was asked

for his hunting license, and he was unable to produce one. A citation was issued for an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle a warning was issued for hunting without a license.

- **CO Michael Evink** assisted Manistique Paper employees save a deer from the paper mill water flume. Mill employees were able to use a rope to get the deer out of the water and CO Evink assisted in moving the deer to safety through the mill to freedom.
- **CO Michael Evink** responded to a jet ski complaint on Indian Lake. The complaint was a jet ski harassing geese in the lake. CO Evink located the jet skier and was unable to verify the subject harassed the geese. CO Evink noted the geese flew when he was more than a hundred yard away. After warning the Jet Ski operator for harassing geese CO Evink checked a Kayak fishing in the middle of the lake. The fisherman did not have a PFD, CO Evink issued a ticket for no PFD in a Kayak.
- **COs Michael Evink and Robert Freeborn** checked fisherman fishing from the shore of the Manistique River. One of the fishermen stated he had a license, but it was in the truck. Upon further follow-up it was clear he did not have a license. CO Evink issued a ticket for fishing without a license.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** was called to assist in locating a 3-year-old child that had wandered from her residence with her 2 dogs. CO Freeborn along with an MSP Detective Sergeant were first on the scene and began to gather information to relay to other officers responding. The child was missing for close to an hour prior to the mother calling for help. After a search plan was constructed, CO Freeborn elected to hike through the cedar swamp behind the house to check out the pipeline and creek in the area. After approximately a half-hour, the child found her way back home with her dogs in the lead, unharmed and in good spirits. The dogs were credited with sticking with the child the entire time and leading the way back home.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and Sgt. Mark Zitnik** participated in the annual security detail for the Labor Day Bridge Walk. The event went off without an issue and the walkers enjoyed perfect fall weather.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink** were on routine patrol when they checked a local river for fishing activity. After locating 2 fishermen on a sand island, they were asked to show their licenses. One of the subjects stated he had one but was in the car back at the beach access. The COs left the river and checked the status of the fisherman in question. It was determined that the fisherman had never purchased a fishing license before. The fisherman was re-contacted, and his story immediately changed. He was issued a citation for the violation.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink** responded to a complaint of a bear shot on the side of a county road in front of a residence. The COs documented the kill sight along with where the bear was loaded into a truck. A slug and .45 casing were also found on the scene. Several hours later, Sault Tribe Police located the suspected vehicle and performed a traffic stop to hold the subject for the COs. After interviewing the suspect, it was determined the hunter had been running the bear with his hounds, he was utilizing his tracking device on the dogs and knew where they were going to cross the road. As the bear crossed with the dogs in pursuit he shot the bear with his pistol at a very close range. Upon checking the bear, it was determined that the tag was not notched properly. A citation was issued to the hunter for failing to validate his tag completely and a warning given for the safety zone violation.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** received a complaint of a hen mallard that was taken out of season by group of three hunters. CO Sumbera responded to the location and checked three members of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians who were actively hunting. Waterfowl season is currently open for all species to Tribal members. CO Sumbera checked the hunters harvest license information and checked their shotguns to ensure that they were not capable of holding more than three shells. Two of the three hunters were found to be hunting waterfowl with shotguns that could hold more than three shells. A report is being compiled to the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians prosecutor's office for review.
- **CO Todd Sumbera** was patrolling for small game hunters when he observed occupants of two side x side's not wearing seatbelts. A stop was conducted, and CO Sumbera located one occupant with open intoxicants. CO Sumbera issued warnings for not wearing seat belts and a citation was issued for open intoxicants in an ORV..
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on ORV patrol when he observed two ORVs operating on the state highway. A traffic stop was conducted, and a citation was issued to the lead driver for operating on a state highway.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on patrol in central Chippewa County when he observed an individual operating his ORV on a state highway and without a helmet. A stop was made on the ORV, and it was also discovered that the operator had failed to properly license it. A citation was given for operating an ORV without a helmet and verbal warnings were given for the other violations.
- **CO Justin Vinson** was on patrol when observed 5 side-by-sides operating on US 2 in Mackinac County. CO Vinson performed a traffic stop on all involved and upon further investigation one of the operators was found to be operating on a restricted driver's license. A report is being sent to the Mackinac County prosecutor's office requesting charges for operating an ORV on a public highway and for operating on a restricted license.

Marketing & Outreach Division

Jon Spieles, Statewide Interpretive Manager

- Social Media
 - The DNR has continued its partnership with over a dozen convention and visitor bureaus around the state to promote trails and fishing opportunities. Part of this partnership includes social media promotion through Facebook and

Instagram. The spring and summer campaigns have concluded, resulting in more than 10.4 million impressions and 80,000 link clicks. This partnership is helpful in highlighting different areas around the state and reaches residents and non-residents in surrounding states.

- As part of our general social media campaigns, the DNR began pushing late-summer fishing opportunities to families and lapsed anglers through Facebook and Instagram platforms. These campaigns were smaller in scope but resulted in 40,000 impressions over the course of three weeks. The objective was to get fishing resources such as the Family Friendly Fishing Waters and Michigan.gov/Fishing pages in the hands of potential anglers.
- Coming up, DNR channels are shifting to our fall hunting campaigns, focused on deer hunting and R3 efforts. This particular campaign is being funded through a grant to push R3 efforts in hunting.
- Call Center: DNR Help Desk is fielding 75-100 calls per day through the last week of September. These numbers will grow through October and into November.
- Harvest Reporting
 - The website has been an important tool for communicating the new mandatory deer harvest reporting requirement. The DNR created a landing page giving an overview of the requirements, how to report a harvest, and a video detailing how to properly tag and report your deer. The page also includes links to FAQs, locations where hunters can obtain technical assistance with reporting, and locations where hunters can submit samples for disease testing.
 - Below are the web metrics for these pages as of September 1.
 - 9,734 reported deer harvest to date
 - For the Liberty Hunt and Early Antlerless seasons 91% of hunters reported their harvest within 72 hours
 - 87.45% of hunters dropped a pin within the county of harvest
 - 80% of the hunters spent less than 5 minutes to report a harvest
 - The harvest reporting dashboard went live in August and can be found at: <https://www.mdnr-elicence.com/HarvestReportSummary>.
- Pocket Park
 - The DNR Pocket Park in Escanaba operated at capacity during the Upper Peninsula State Fair from August 15-21 to enable visitors to experience archery, pellet gun, fishing and many other activities all week. Forest Resources brought a giant Smokey Bear bounce house and did all kinds of fire prevention education. Conservation Officers stood all week helping visitors understand laws, recruitment, recreational safety and more. FOD, Parks and Wildlife Division employees staffed "Ask the DNR" stations and provided great information on trails and other outdoor recreation options, deer harvest registration and more.
 - Arguably the most impressive accomplishment this year through Fair Week was the 163 volunteers that pitched in to make the Pocket Park a fun and meaningful part of the Upper Peninsula State Fair. FOD and Executive staff recruited, trained, and helped these community partners (including sporting groups, Hiawatha and Ottawa National Forest staff, students and seniors) contribute side-by-side with DNR staff to this effort.
- Technology: The Rifle River Recreation Area and Sterling State Park were upgraded to Cisco phone systems. This included the ability to connect remote offices to HQ and implementing call handlers to answer and direct callers before reaching an employee.
- Mobile App: The new Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app was launched on August 17, 2022 for both iPhone and Android smartphones. This new app once downloaded and connected to the internet will allow customers to the ability to purchase licenses, check drawing results, viewpoints, and chances, download all guides and digests and submit a harvest report. Once the customers are in an unconnected state customers will be able to view and display their licenses, which includes new digital licenses for non-kill-tag licenses and permits and the ability to view any downloaded DNR Guides and Digest. To date, we have 54,900 downloads and have sold over 17,000 licenses via the new app.

Parks & Recreation Division

Eric Cowing, Eastern UP District Supervisor

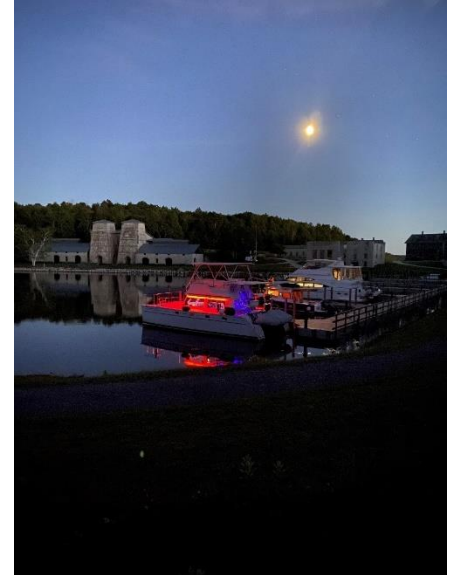
Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island

- Lime Island AST cleaning & Hazardous Material Assessment: Received a breakdown of cost estimates from contractor in September.
- Lime Island Harbor upgrade project: Piles have been driven for docks. Project completion is scheduled for late Fall.
- Brimley utility improvement (waterline/storm water replacement) Design kick-off/site walk was held on September 16.
- Most summer worker positions left for the season in late August.

- The vacant Seasonal Ranger-E at DeTour/Lime is in the process of being filled
- Brimley: The campground opened for the season on June 30th, due to construction of new Restroom/Shower Buildings. Camping nights were down compared to 2021 due to delayed opening but were back to pre-pandemic occupancy.
- DeTour State Harbor opened on May 15, 2022. Slip nights were up slightly compared to the 2021 boating season.
- Lime Island Recreation Area is currently closed for the season and had a slower than normal year due to Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday closures for construction of new docks in the Harbor that started in mid-July.
- DeTour SFCG is down just under 100 camp nights to date compared to 2021.
- Munuscong SFCG is down approximately 50 camp nights to date compared to 2021.
- The Brimley State Park new Restroom/Shower buildings have been very well received by our campers.... public comments have been very positive.
- Lime Island Common Tern nesting numbers were down significantly this year. DNR Wildlife, PRD Stewardship and other partners are trying to figure out why. DNR/PRD Stewardship (Greg & Ben) stayed a couple nights in September on Lime Island to continue work on Tern chick fence.
- Brimley had its Harvest Fest the wknd of September 24th. The campground was full and campers/visitors took part in a pancake breakfast, chili cook-off, campsite decorating, scavenger hunt and trick-or-treating.
- It's been challenging to keep up operationally with reduced staff (STW's leaving for school).
- DeTour Harbor sold approximately \$189,000.00 more in fuel this boating season compared to the 2021 boating season. (Higher fuel prices, but also much higher demand than in previous years).

Fayette Historic State Park

- Townsite: General reactionary maintenance to window sashes, doors, locks, siding, etc. Received dark gravel for townsite outer rim roads.
- Park: Began laying landscape block mini-wall along ADA parking area for townsite. General taking care of guest services & maintenance items. Staining of Contact Station nearly complete*.
- Nearly complete complement of STW's for the season
- A Paranormal Event was held September 16th & 17th. Light turnout, but it went smoothly.



Indian Lake/Palms Book State Parks

- Construction of two new drain fields at Palms Book has begun.
- The first septic field located near Sawmill Road should be operational by mid-October.
- Construction of new railing is being installed by Western UP Construction Crew along the pathway leading to the Big Springs.
- A meeting is being scheduled for updates on the Indian Lake toilet/shower replacement project, in the upcoming weeks.
- STW 4'S are departing for the season.
- Two of our seasonal rangers will be attending the park ranger operations academy for the month of October.
- We will have staff shortages for the month October.
- A project request for the Western UP construction crew has been submitted to help fix a board walk and fencing for FY2023.
- Indian Lake State Park numbers for August and September, Shelters up 18%, Camping nights down 12%, and mini cabins remained the same as last year.

Straits State Park/Mackinac Island/Father Marquette

- Nearing the end of final design for the learning commons building at Father Marquette Park.
- Straits State Park upper campground is closed now and under construction for 2 toilet shower buildings. Both buildings have been removed and footings are starting to be put in place.
- Mackinac Island harbor is closed for a construction project to replace toilet shower building. This building has been torn down and footing being placed soon..
- Staff are working on an ADA trail to the bridge overlook from the north campground.
- Straits was able to fill most positions this summer.
- Mackinac Island harbor has been short staffed all season and has many hours of overtime especially during the annual sailing races.
- The annual Native American POW WOW was again held at the Father Marquette Memorial the weekend before Labor Day.



- While only half the campground was open, it remained full for the September bridge crossing events. (Tractor show, Truck show, and Trek the Mighty Mac)
- Campground attendance remains very high but has slowed a little this year. Gas prices could be influencing some campers.

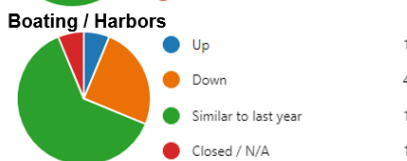
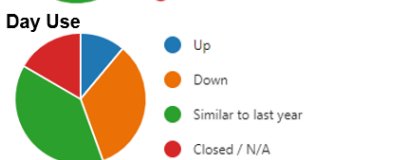
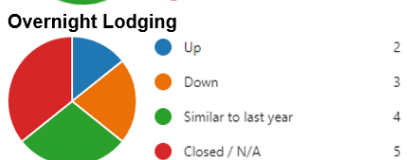
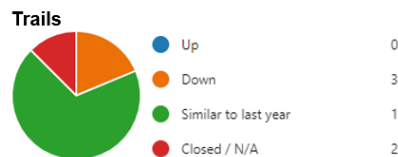
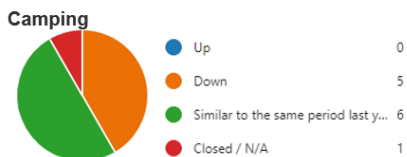


Tahquamenon Falls State Park

- Lower Falls Concession Store Remodel/Replacement project: The contractor, (Olsen & Olsen) have the walls and roofing set for both the new park store and bathroom building. Construction for the additional 3rd parking lot is also in progress.
- Lower Falls Boat Concession/Island Redevelopment project: Olsen & Olsen is finishing up work addressing erosion areas along the island trail. The Pedestrian Bridge remains open as construction work continues.
- Whitefish Point Harbor Redevelopment study: Is in preliminary design and still awaits funding for construction. The project team is aiming for baseline improvements that allow the site to meet ADA guidelines and allow for the new docks to be adjustable as lake levels change.
- We finished the summer being short 3 full time STW positions.
- We had another busy and successful Harvest Festival which took place on September 24th.
- The State Park Campgrounds remained very full to finish out the summer, day use areas were down a little bit from the previous 2 years. State Forest Campgrounds were full during the weekends but slowed during the week.
- The coho salmon run at the Mouth of the Two Hearted River is off to a slow start.

Doug Rich, Western UP District Supervisor

- Use Statistics



- Camping

Unit	Responses
Twin Lakes	There is a greater number of tent campers this season vs. RVs.
Baraga FO	Projects included Porkies parking lot, Craig Lake beaver dam, Big Eric's SFCG riprap
Fort Wilkins	East campground is closed for water line upgrade project
Baraga SP	Campground still very busy, challenging to keep up with high use. SFCG sites have also had higher use, some sites have had issues with trash from non-campers and illegal dumping

- Overnight Lodging

Unit	Responses
McLain	Lodging closed the last week of July until at least May 2023. Construction work is currently ongoing in the cabin area as we pull 4 cabins back from the eroding lakeshore. Work is being completed by MJO Contracting of Hancock
Porkies	Overnight lodging remains at 100%
Lake Gogebic SP	The Lake Gogebic Tiny House is available to rent and has been getting usage and plenty of positive feedback
Lake Gogebic Field Crew	The Lake Gogebic Tiny House ADA ramp and deck as well as the finishing touches were completed in July. It is now being rented and enjoyed by visitors
Wells	Multiple turnovers in overnight lodging, including cabins proves challenging for cleaning staff
Baraga SP	Mini Cabin use remains high

- Boating Access Sites and Harbors

Unit	Responses
Lake Gogebic SP	The boat launch underwent an upgrade. The Baraga Construction Crew replaced the concrete planks that were installed in the 1980's. An armoring project was performed on western shore of the mouth of Oman Creek at Lake Superior, in Gogebic County. It was done on private property through an Operating Agreement with the Oman family. MD Contracting out of Baraga performed the work and OHM Advisors the engineering. Significant completion was achieved in August
Bewabic	Our Faithorn BAS was hit by a shear wind, toppling almost every tree on the site. Escanaba Field Office and Bewabic Staff opened the site, with tree cleanup work still needing to be done this fall
Copper Harbor	High gas prices and a very windy season impacted the number of boaters we saw
Escanaba FO	Many boating access sites were improved with additional gravel and grading this reporting period
Baraga SP	Use at boating sites remains high, lots of trash at sites and in vault toilets
Baraga FO	Projects included Horseshoe Lake ramp, King Lake SFCG ramp replacement, Lake Gogebic SP ramp replacement

- Trails

Unit	Responses
Twin Lakes	The grading of the Bill Nicholls Trail made a huge improvement in riding conditions
Lake Gogebic Field Crew	Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew assisted the Baraga Crew along with Lake Gogebic staff in removing 3200 feet of belting, removing hazard trees, performing repairs on the decks and rails, and grading turnouts, on the Bill Nichols trail trestles in Houghton County
Baraga FO	Crystal Falls trail & culverts (Stateline Trail), Firesteel brushing, gravel & bridge repair (Bill Nichols Trail)
Wells	Forest Island ORV Route: trail improvement projects have begun with boardwalk improvements taking place. Completed by local contractor

- Day Use

Unit	Responses
McLain	Painted the day use bathrooms and hoping to get some new lighting installed soon
Porkies	Day use has been slower than the past two years. Upgrades to the triple chair chairlift was completed to add downhill loading. This will assist with fall color chairlift rides. Cost of the project was over \$170,000
Lake Gogebic Field Crew	Repairs to siding, flooring, and painting were performed at Fort Wilkins in the historic complex of the fort
Menominee River	We expanded the parking lot at the Piers Gorge Unit by 6 spaces, work was completed by the Baraga Field Office
Fort Wilkins	Day use is also being impacted by waterline project
Copper Harbor	Day use at the marinas is still high
Bond Falls	Use appears down as we do not have staff at the site as we have in prior years to sell passports and to collect use information. It is highly probable that use is high like prior years

- Special Events, Volunteer Projects, Accomplishments, Challenges or Personnel News

Unit	Responses
Porkies	The Music Festival was a success. Windows have been replaced in park residence by the Lake Gogebic Crew. New front deck was added to Cross Cut Cabin. NCT trail reroute has been completed and old trail markers removed. Upgrades to the triple chairlift have been completed. Various plans and tasks completed to fully operate the winter sports complex by the State of Michigan

Menominee River	Our booth STW for Piers Gorge left for college in August, not able to backfill. The Dickinson Trail Network (Mountain bike club) addressed/repairs a spur trail that users created
Bewabic	We had an event at Bewabic day use hosted by the local conservation district. They had games, a water ski show, food vendor, and disseminated information on invasive species. All involved were very pleased with the event and turnout. About 700 people attended
Fort Wilkins	No events, but we had a full crew this year. The STW pay raise really helped with hiring.
Escanaba FO	2 vacant ranger positions throughout the summer- another employee resigned August 3rd. A seasonal position was filled, beginning August 7th. Thankfully great STW staff have kept the unit afloat throughout the season
Wells	With STW staffing being an overall challenge this season, it has proved even more difficult as the season closes. Many staff have left or are on leave. Unit supervisor Diffenderfer on extended leave of absence
Van Riper	MRS crews wrapped up their work season in mid-August. The MRS program is a great experience for both staff and participants. It allows additional projects to be completed and gives the participants work experience in a setting where they can be coached and mentored. The Baraga Construction crew replaced the second failed culvert on the road between the campgrounds and the boat launch and Cully Cage Camper Cabin. The boat launch was closed the last week of August to accommodate construction equipment and material for the project
Craig Lake	The Van Riper State Park crew worked hard during this timeframe to clear all trails and installed additional trail markers within Craig Lake State Park
Little Presque Isle	The additional trails within Thunder Valley Equestrian Trail were completed by the contractor and have started to be marked and are being cleared again this season
Baraga SP	Working on filling the vacant commissioned ranger position. Project to have it filled in October. Lack of staffing for STW positions remains a challenge for day-to-day operations
Bond Falls	Lack of staffing for STW positions and having to pull STW staff from Baraga SP to assist with fee pipe collection, cleaning and site maintenance is affecting day to day operations of both sites. Neither can run at optimal staffing for customer service, revenue collection or maintenance. Hiring options locally, online, etc. have been tried without success

▪ Design, Construction, and Capital Outlay Projects

Unit	Responses
District Wide	Discussions continue with the Michigan National Guard for future training/projects opportunities for FY23/24 at the Porkies, Craig Lake, and the new shoot range in Marquette County
Iron Industry Museum	Design continues for ADA upgrades, sidewalk repair, restroom repairs, and furnace replacement
Lake Gogebic	Design contracts for sewer, water and electrical was scoped out and in process for DTMB for bidding a design contract as funded by ARPA
McLain	Construction Phase 3 is in full swing. We are non-reservable in the campground starting September 6 through the fall. Water will be shut off and the dump station and bathrooms closed on October 1st
Twin Lakes	Design continues on paving roads, sewer and toilet building replacement as funded by ARPA
Bewabic	Design continues on paving roads, sewer and toilet building replacement as funded by ARPA
Porkies	Suspension bridge over the little Iron River is completed. Progress continues the Fire Barn foundation repairs. The framing and roofing are up on the new Lake Superior Sportsman's Club indoor shooting facility. Design continues for sewer and paving upgrades
Fort Wilkins	Waterline and sanitation station project began Aug 1 and will run through November
Eagle Harbor	Eagle Harbor Marina upgrade is scheduled to begin in Sept. This project represents a major modernization of facilities and is being supported by Waterways funding at \$3.5 million
Cedar River	Preparing for capital outlay projects to repair sidewalks, fuel stations, and docks
Little Presque Isle	Engineering is underway for the trail improvements as funded by a \$300,000 Trust Fund grant
Baraga SP	The south shower remodel and urinal projects have been completed along with some interior work in the campground office

Parks & Recreation Division – UP Trails Section

Ron Yesney, UP Trails Section Supervisor

▪ Peter Costa, Eastern UP

Project Names	Description	Trail Use	Anticipated Completion	Q4 Update
Haywire Grade - 11 Bridges	Engineering and replace 11 bridges	ORV/Snowmobile	Unknown	DTMB working to get an engineering firm on board
Trail 8 - 3 Bridges	Engineer and replace 3 bridges	Snowmobile	2025	Beartrap @ 90% designed, Ionia @ 50% designed. Melstrand ready to bid. Need more funding to construct all three projects.
Bissel Creek Culvert	Engineer culvert replacement		2021	4 bids received, project to be awarded soon.
O'Brian Creek Crossing	Replace failing gabion basket system with sheet pile on M-123 in Paradise	ORV	July 2022	Project complete.
20 th Street Culvert	Replace concrete culverts	Multi-Use	2023	Soil borings complete. Survey done week of 9/19. 50% design mtg end of Sept.
Headquarters Lake Equestrian Signs	Signs & Canada Lakes brushing	Equestrian	2021	Working on reroute for safety with local volunteers.
Blind Sucker Pathway Boardwalk	Rebuild boardwalk	Hiking	2021	Waiting on funding for construction.
Millecoquins River Bridge	Snowmobile bridge footing replacement	Snowmobile	2022	Waiting on funding for construction.

▪ Rob Katona, Central UP

Project Names	Description	Trail Use	Anticipated Completion	Q4 Update
ORV Route Grading Alger, Delta, Marquette, Menominee, and Dickinson Counties	Multiple projects for grading and smoothing ORV routes with multiple grades planned in high use areas to help prevent rough routes	Rail Trails	Summer 2022	Projects have been completed.
Sturgeon River Bridge	Bridge rehab snowmobile Trail 2 in Dickinson County on State owned Rail-Trail	Rail Trails	September 2022	SHPO complete and the project is currently out for bids.
Nahma Grade Multi-use Trail	Design and construction 3.7 mile multi-use Rail-Trail in Delta County work includes clearing, surfacing and culvert/bridge installation	Rail Trails		Project on hold awaiting funding.
Clowry Grade Bridges #2, #3 & #6	Design and rehab/construction of multiple bridges on this designated ORV/snowmobile multi-use Rail-Trail in Marquette County	Rail Trails		SHPO complete and the project is currently out for bids. Seeking additional funding for bridge #6.

Clowry Grade Bridges #1, #4, #5 & #7	Design and rehab/construction of multiple bridges on this designated ORV/snowmobile multi-use Rail-Trail in Marquette County	Rail Trails	2025	Currently in a holding phase for moving into engineering/design.
Clowry ORV Improvements	Filling several low areas and culvert replacement on the Clowry Grade ORV C & CL Routes	Rail Trails	July 29, 2022	Project has been completed.
Little Presque Isle Rec Area Improvements	Trail repairs, parking improvements and boardwalk/bridge repairs throughout 42 sites at LPI recreation area and Wetmore Pond	Non-Motorized & Mountain Bike	2-23	Engineering/design continues with construction in 2023.
Days River Single Track Trail Construction	Approximately 10 miles of single-track trail construction designed for mountain bike use	Non-Motorized & Mountain Bike	2023	Engineering/design has started with Rock Solid Trail Builders.
Thunder Valley Trail Development	Complete construction on three additional loops and connector trail to Fairgrounds designed for equestrian use	Non-Motorized & Equestrian	July 29, 2022	Project has been completed.
Tyoga Pathway Bridges	Replace one bridge and replace or rehab second bridge both spanning the Laughing Whitefish River	Non-Motorized	2023-2024	Currently in a holding phase for moving into engineering/design.
LPI Songbird Trail and Harlow Creek Bridges	Replace two popular pedestrian bridges on the LPI songbird trail and pathway to cabin #6 and north trail system	Non-Motorized	2023-2024	Currently in a holding phase for moving into engineering/design.
Genes Pond Pathway	Construction of 1.75-mile accessible pathway with scenic overlooks adjacent to state forest campground located near Ralph in Dickinson County	Non-Motorized	2023-2024	Engineering/design continues however construction has been pushed out to 2024 due to federal bat protection requirements, tree clearing may only occur between October and March.
Laughing Whitefish Falls Bridge	New pedestrian bridge construction on NCT over Laughing Whitefish River at the Laughing Whitefish Falls Natural Area	Non-Motorized	2023-2024	Currently in a holding phase for moving into engineering/design.
Norway-Carney ORV/Snowmobile Connector Culverts	New ORV route/ snowmobile trail development with several stream crossings requiring new culvert installation. New trail will connect the Norway ORV trail with Carney Lake Rd providing a east-west connection across Dickinson County	ORV/Snowmobile	Summer/Fall 2022	Project is 90% complete.

Days River ORV Route Grading and Gravel	Replace culvert, grade, shape, and fill Days River ORV Route in Delta County	ORV	September 2022	Some work has been completed.
Marquette County ORV Routes Improvements	Repair large holes replace culverts and surfacing on multiple ORV routes in western Marquette County	ORV	September 2022	All work has been completed.
Forest Islands Repairs and Restoration	Repair damaged board walks and damage in low wet areas on the Forest Islands ORV Trail/Route in Menominee and Delta Counties	ORV	N/A	Work continues with completion expected in November-December.
Felch Grade Surface Improvements II	Gravel capping on the Felch Grade in Menominee and Dickinson Counties	ORV	July 2022	Project is currently out for bids.
Bass Lake Restoration	Perform reroutes around eroded areas.	ORV	September 2022	Some work will occur this fall, contractor availability has been limited for this work.
Gwinn-Arnold Improvements and Restoration II	ORV G route Marquette County filling, gravel, and culvert work	ORV	August 2022	Project has been completed.
Delta-Menominee ORV Routes Improvements	Minor bridge railing and decking repairs replace culverts and surfacing work	ORV	September 2022	Most work has been completed with some additional grading to occur this fall.
Central U.P. ORV Route Dust Control	Perform dust control at multiple sites on ORV routes to prevent dust caused by ORV traffic in residential areas and other areas meeting criteria	ORV	June 2022	Work has been completed.
Hiawatha NF ORV Routes Proposal	Nearly 100 miles of ORV routes proposed to be designated that would provide connectivity and looped riding across Marquette, Delta, Alger and Schoolcraft Counties	ORV		Had meeting with USFS to review proposal they are conducting additional analysis with approval for some of the routes expected by January.
Norway Rock Motorcycle Trail Proposal	New single-track construction in Dickinson County adjacent to the Norway ORV trail	ORV		WLD denied no further progress will occur without their support.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Moose Mountain Reroute Snowmobile Trail & Three Lakes	Trail/bridge improvements and reroutes around difficult to groom areas. Logging operation on SCTC property to offset trail reroute costs	Snowmobile	January 2022	Additional work has begun.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Days River Nature Trail	Designate and improve non-motorized pathway located along the Days	Non-Motorized Pathway	Spring 2022	EGLE permits have been obtained some work to occur this fall depending on funding.

	River near Little Bay DeNoc			
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Dickinson County Snowmobile Trail Reroutes	Multiple reroutes to relocate trails to better areas and work with private landowners and the DCRC	Snowmobile	December 2021	Proposals have been approved.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : NCT/IBT Silver Lake Reroute	Trail reroute to locate trail off of roads near Silver Lake proposal involves some State land for both trail development and parking	Non-Motorized Pathway	Summer 2022	Proposal was approved.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Westwood Pathway	Designate and improve non-motorized pathway located on State owned property adjacent to Ishpeming DNR FO and Westwood High School	Non-Motorized Pathway	Summer 2022	Proposal is going through review.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Negaunee-Eagle Mills-Gwinn-Little Lake ORV Route	ORV Designate existing snowmobile trails that are already heavily used by ORVs. Designation will allow funding for maintenance and provide direction for community connectivity	ORV	Proposal submitted Summer/Fall 2022	Waiting on the final permits from landowners. Working with CN RR on opening IOHT crossing in Negaunee.
<u>PROPOSAL</u> : Little Lake – Chatham RR grade ORV Route	ORV Designate segments of existing RR grade and county roads to provide ORV connectivity between Chatham and Little Lake and beyond	ORV	Proposal submitted Summer/Fall 2022	Submitted title analysis request for determining ownership across several remaining gaps.

▪ **Jeff Kakuk, Western UP**

- 1) UP15 Snowmobile trail has been closed the past two seasons due to the failure of a bridge in the Sturgeon River Sloughs Wildlife Area. The project is being funded and managed by DNR Wildlife Division. The bridge site is on a USACE developed drainage area and therefore permitting is delayed while under review by the Army Corps of Engineers. A wetland delineation has been completed and we are awaiting a new timeline based on USACE permit. This bridge will not be completed for the 22/23 snowmobile season with the existing timeline.
- 2) The Menominee River Trail Bridge near Iron Mountain will be undergoing abutment repairs. Above water work awarded to MJO contracting and has been completed. The landward limestone piers were cleaned and re-grouted. Future work on the center pier and underwater sections remains to be completed at another time.
- 3) The BN ORV Route between Painsdale and South Range remains closed due to a trail slump at the Pilgrim River. Engineering work has begun, and the box culvert will need to be replaced. There is also the Adam’s Township watermain on this section of trail. Temporary repairs will be completed to stabilize the watermain and re-open the trail. Work is being completed on an emergency basis with DNR, Adams Township and private contractors.
- 4) The SLC ORV Route just south of Crystal Falls is also closed due to another washout. Engineering is also started on this site and floodplain remediation is included in the work scope. The City of Crystal Falls has developed an alternate route through town to address this closure impact.
- 5) A stormwater system was installed on the DNR rail grade within the City of Hancock to address surface water flows impacting the trail and streets. The work was managed by the city and partially funded by the department under a Co-Operative Agreement. This project will improve user safety at this intersection.

Brian Roell, Wildlife Biologist-Marquette

- **New Michigan DNR App:** The new Michigan Department of Natural Resources hunting and fishing app is now available for downloading to Apple and Android devices.
 - Highlights
 - Buy hunting and fishing licenses and trail permits.
 - Report deer or fish harvests.
 - Look up regulations and download guides and digests (downloaded guides/digests are available regardless of internet connectivity).
 - Find their license history, including point and chance balances.
 - Check out maps with multiple layers, showing features such as shooting ranges and boat launches.
 - Get timely notifications from the DNR
- **Marquette County Shooting Range:** After several years of preparation and public input opportunities, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is close to finalizing development plans for the first public outdoor shooting range in the UP. The new range in Marquette County will meet or exceed Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility guidelines. It also will provide hunters with the opportunity to increase firearm proficiency and safety, and allow recreational shooters to practice their sport in a safe, accommodating area
- **Wolf Management Plan Update:** A final draft was submitted on 10/3/22 for executive review and approval. Executive input will be finalized by the end of October and the plan will be presented to the NRC for information at the November 10th meeting. The companion document to the Wolf Plan (Wolf White Paper) is completed and will be posted on the web page once the plan finalized.
- **Net River Dam:** The Net River Wildlife flooding a 400-acre impoundment experienced a partial dam failure incident on April 28th. Thanks to the quick work by Baraga Wildlife staff, we were able to mobilize resources and bring together staff across the DNR to stabilize the dam. An engineering firm, EGLE permit, and construction contractor have been retained. A diversion crosscut of the dam and coffer dam will be constructed in early October to allow the river flow over the winter and ensure safety of the structure before permanent repairs can be made in the future.
- **Bear Activity:** Bear activity reports and complaints have been up this year compared to previous years across the West UP and were comparable to last year in the East UP. Berry crops and soft mast availability is good to excellent across the UP compared to last year. We would have thought this would reduce nuisance bear issues by providing bear with widely available natural forage. Most complaints have been successfully addressed by working with owners to eliminate attractants, such as taking down bird feeders and securing garbage.
- **Bear hunting:** Check stations across the UP are at or above the average number of bears registered and overall, the size of harvested bear has increased this year with multiple bears over the 500 lbs. mark.
- **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant and KBIC Wild Rice Partnership:** Working with GLRI grant funds DNR Wildlife staff have begun wild rice restoration in water bodies in both the West Central and East UP. Wild rice is a native wildlife food source and culturally important tribal food source which is absent from northern Michigan floodings in the Lake Superior watershed. This project has a primary goal of establishing wild rice beds with a secondary goal of identifying and removing invasive species from four northern floodings in the UP as well as improving an aging water control structure near Marquette. Over the past half dozen years Wildlife Division has been in partnership with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community in the Western UP. The KBIC partnership sources all the rice used in the UP including the GLRI grant projects sites in the Central and Eastern UP. This year KBIC sourced over 5,500 lbs. of rice from Minnesota harvesters for us. The rice was immediately transported after it was wild harvested to the UP. It was then distributed by staff and KBIC to multiple lakes. KBIC partners with Wildlife Division to treat approximately ten public land waterbodies in the UP.

▪ **UP Vacant Position Update:**

- Escanaba: Joe Sage has a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Eastern Michigan University and a master's degree in biology from Indiana-Purdue University. He has worked for the Florida Fish and Game Conservation Commission for the past 14 years, the first three as the Assistant Regional Nongame Biologist and the last 11 years as a Wildlife Biologist, developing wildlife and habitat conservation plans for private landowners in a six-county area. Joe also comes to us with a variety of experience working with herptofauna in the Midwest region.
- Crystal Falls Biologist Sault Ste. Marie Technician Position: Hire packets have been submitted to Human Resources.