



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

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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 2024 Joint UPCAC Meeting in Marquette.

# Welcome to the Annual Joint Meeting of the EUPCAC & WUPCAC

## **DNR Public Meetings**

For virtual or conference call meeting information, please go to [DNR Meetings](#) and click on the appropriate meeting and/or agenda for instructions.

October 2	Lake Superior Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee, 6:30pm (231-350-8554)
October 4	Michigan State Waterways Commission, 9am (517-285-0747)
October 9	Joint Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, Marquette, 3pm (906-225-1331)
October 9	Lake Michigan Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee, 10:30am (269-204-7057)
October 10	Michigan Natural Resources Commission, Marquette, 8am Coffee with the Commissioners; 9am Meeting (NRC@michigan.gov)
October 10	Board of Foresters, 11am (989-370-9557)
October 16	Forest Management Advisory Committee, 1pm (517-582-3204)
October 16	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, 9am (517-284-5954)
October 16	Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee, 2pm (517-284-6135)
October 17	Non-Motorized Advisory Workgroup, 10am (517-331-6219)
October 18	Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council, 8:30am (51-7582-3204)
October 29	Tribal Co-Management Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee (231-350-8654)
October 30	Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup, 1pm (517-331-6219)
November 7	Michigan Natural Resources Commission, Lansing, 9am (NRC@michigan.gov)
December 2	Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, Virtual, 6pm (906-226-1331)
December 12	Michigan Natural Resources Commission, Lansing, 9am (NRC@michigan.gov)
December 12	Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, Virtual, 6pm (906-226-1331)

## **UP State Park & Other UP Recreational Activities**

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

October 4-5	Fayette Historic State Park – Fayette Fall Fest
February 15-16	Free Fishing Weekend
February TBD	Free Snowmobiling Weekend

## **Recent DNR Press Releases**

For full details, go to: [www.michigan.gov/dnrpressroom](http://www.michigan.gov/dnrpressroom)

- October hunting and trapping opportunities (10/1/24)
- Nonmetallic minerals lease application for Mackinac County (10/1/24)
- 'Ask the DNR' returns Thursday on WNMU-TV13 (10/1/24)
- DNR's Eastern and Western UP Citizens' Advisory Councils to meet jointly in Marquette County (10/1/24)
- Houghton Douglass Falls and Veterans Memorial Scenic Site temporarily closed (10/1/24)
- Fishing Lake Superior this fall? Report marked splake to the DNR (9/30/24)
- Parks, fisheries, forestry and more at DNR October meetings (9/27/24)
- DNR: What do Michiganders want in the outdoors? (9/26/24)
- Showcasing the DNR: Saluting the North Country (9/26/24)
- Checking in on young walleye: DNR begins fall surveys (9/26/24)
- DNR News: Trails Week, fall birding, tree TLC, endangered species milestone (9/23/24)

## 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, <a href="mailto:carlockm@michigan.gov">carlockm@michigan.gov</a>
Recreation Passport Grant	Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, <a href="mailto:carlockm@michigan.gov">carlockm@michigan.gov</a>
Michigan Spark Grants (Public Recreation)	Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, <a href="mailto:carlockm@michigan.gov">carlockm@michigan.gov</a>
Aquatic Habitat Grant	Chip Kosloski, 517-284-5965, <a href="mailto:kosloskic3@michigan.gov">kosloskic3@michigan.gov</a>
Fisheries Habitat Grant Program	Chip Kosloski, 517-284-5965, <a href="mailto:kosloskic3@michigan.gov">kosloskic3@michigan.gov</a>
Michigan Invasive Species Grant	Erin Campbell, 269-300-9698, <a href="mailto:campbelle6@michigan.gov">campbelle6@michigan.gov</a>
Wildlife Habitat Grant	Clay Buchanan, 517-614-0918, <a href="mailto:buchanenc1@michigan.gov">buchanenc1@michigan.gov</a>
U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant	Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, <a href="mailto:scullonh@michigan.gov">scullonh@michigan.gov</a>
Forestry Grants	<a href="https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/forestry">https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/forestry</a>
Land & Water Conservation Fund	Christie Bayus, 517-242-8737, <a href="mailto:bayusc@michigan.gov">bayusc@michigan.gov</a>
Waterways Program Grants	Linnea Dawson, 517-290-2200, <a href="mailto:dawsonl@michigan.gov">dawsonl@michigan.gov</a>

## UP DNR Customer Service Centers and Field Offices

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

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

## September 2024 NRC Meeting Summary

The Natural Resources Commission met on the West Campus of Lansing Community College on September 12.

The Commission approved a number of changes to Fisheries regulations that:

- Change language to clear up angler confusion about trout and salmon regulation boundaries on waters in Antrim County and Kent County.
- Clarify rainbow trout (steelhead) regulations on a number of streams following 2023 regulation changes by the NRC. These changes passed with an amendment from Commissioner David Cozad regarding rainbow trout on the Pere Marquette River.
- Add the Rio Grande Creek in Muskegon County as a Type 1 trout stream.
- Move the designated trout stream boundary on the White River in Muskegon County to allow bowfishing near White Lake
- Allow people statewide to temporarily possess and relocate reptiles and amphibians on private property to make that process more efficient.
- Align the Fisheries Order with the list of state threatened and endangered reptile and amphibian species as that list was revised in 2023.
- Put blowguns on the list of forbidden gear for use in taking reptiles and amphibians.
- Remove Type C designation on Lime Lake in Leelanau County, where the department's stocking efforts have been ineffective.

Director Scott Bowen approved:

- A letter of authorization to discount the antlerless deer licenses to \$5 for the extended late antlerless firearm deer season.
- Five land transactions. Details can be found in the NRC agenda.

Director Bowen also announced the resignation of NRC Commissioner Robin Clark. Commissioner Clark opted to leave the Commission because of potential conflicts of interest related to her role as director of natural resources for the Sault St. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. The governor's office is working to find an appropriate replacement.

## Wildlife Committee

Wildlife Division Chief Sara Thompson discussed ongoing stakeholder engagement with hunters following the Deer Management Initiative, a process initiated by the NRC this year to address contemporary challenges in deer management. Sara said the Wildlife Division will convene two groups – one of the Upper Peninsula and one for the Lower Peninsula, similar to what was done for the DMI. The two groups will discuss a combination of regulatory and non-regulatory issues. They will meet in

person once a year and will meet virtually more frequently than that. The department plans to engage tribes in some manner as well.

Tom Weston and Joe Presgrove from the Marketing and Outreach Division updated the committee on the Sportsmen Against Hunger program, by which hunters donate venison to families in need to help address food insecurity. From Oct. 1, 2023 through Aug. 27, 2024, the program facilitated the donation of nearly 80,000 pounds of venison. Monetary donations to the program have increased, Joe said. In addition, this year there was a crop damage pilot program, by which farmers addressing crop damage through deer culling could donate to the program. The department purchased four refrigerated trailers for use during the summer to loan to farmers addressing crop damage.

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

Law Enforcement Chief Jason Haines presented distinguished service awards to Sgt. Dan Bigger and Conservation Officer Logan Turner for their efforts to save a kayaker who was in distress on Lake Michigan near Point Betsie Lighthouse on a high-wind, high-wave day in October 2022. The kayaker had capsized and was unable to get back into his kayak. The waves eventually grew to 10 feet as Sgt. Bigger and CO Turner maneuvered their boat out to try to rescue the kayaker. They tried to get a throw ring to the subject, but conditions made that impossible. The U.S. Coast Guard dispatched a helicopter to the scene as well. Eventually the Coast Guard was able to recover the kayaker, who was wearing a life jacket, and get him to a hospital. The kayaker had been exposed to cold water for more than an hour and did not survive. Sgt. Bigger and CO Turner were credited with risking their own lives in their efforts to save the man.

CO Turner was recognized for an additional life-saving event that took place on Feb. 1, 2024. He responded that day to a call for a two-vehicle head-on collision near where he was located in Traverse City. Drivers in both vehicles were pinned in their vehicles. Arriving on the scene, CO Turner immediately ran up to an older pickup in which a man was trapped. The truck's engine suddenly burst into flames. Running back to his patrol truck CO Turner retrieved a fire extinguisher and managed to put the fire out before the trapped man was injured or killed. CO Turners decisive actions allowed the victim to receive needed medical attention and resulted in a positive outcome.

Dan Ulfing of the National Deer Association presented that group's 2024 Conservation and Outreach Award to Joe Presgrove of the Marketing and Outreach Division for Joe's efforts in overseeing the Sportsmen Against Hunger program. Dan said Joe is a great example of a public servant.

Jason Crandall of the Finance and Operations Division gave an update on the Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

Lucas Nathan from the Fisheries Division presented additional proposed Fisheries regulations for this regulation cycle. The proposals, which will be before the Commission next month for action, would:

- Address illegal snagging of Lake Whitefish at the mouths of the White, Muskegon and Grand rivers. The recommendation adds a seasonal gear restriction (Nov. 1 through Nov. 30) to allow for a single-pointed, unweighted hook measuring a half inch or less.
- Increase protection and align regulations for Lake Whitefish at the mouths of the White, Muskegon and Grand rivers by prohibiting possession and use of spearfishing and bowfishing gear on these water bodies Nov. 1 through Nov. 30.
- Extend regulations approved three years ago that allow for take of Walleye, Lake Trout, and Northern Pike via underwater spearfishing in parts of the Great Lakes through March 31, 2026. This additional year would allow for added data collection and the exploration of regulation options with stakeholders.
- Address an abundance of small Northern Pike on Lake George in Clare County, Rainbow Lake in Montcalm County and Crystal Lake in Oceana County. The proposed change would allow no minimum size limit for Northern Pike on these three water bodies. It would also dictate a five fish limit, with no more than one 24 inches or larger.
- Clean up a mismatch between a Fisheries Order and our Fishing Regulations book. The change would update the Fisheries Order for Crystal Lake in Montcalm County to no minimum size limit for Northern Pike, with a five fish limit, and no more than one 24 inches or larger.
- Provide protections for Northern Pike populations in Diamond Lake in Cass County and Gull Lake in Kalamazoo County. The proposal would change the Northern Pike regulation to a protected slot limit (24-34 inches) with a two fish limit.
- Address an abundance of small Largemouth Bass in Gun Lake, Mason County. The proposal would change the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass on this lake to 10 inches.
- Address inconsistent regulations and add protection on Muskellunge broodstock lakes. The proposed changes would apply to Thornapple River/Lake in Barry and Eaton counties, and Lake Hudson in Lenawee County. On Thornapple

Lake, the proposal would extend the boundaries of the 50" Muskellunge regulation and remove the special season for Northern Pike and Muskellunge. On Lake Hudson the proposal would change the Muskellunge regulation to a 50 inch minimum size limit and remove the special season for Northern Pike and Muskellunge.

- Address a misalignment in the Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters by changing the open season from “all boundary waters” to the “Menominee River.”
- Address challenges with potentially closing the Black Lake Sturgeon Season by allowing the season to be amended up to 48 hours before the season. The 2024 Black Lake Sturgeon Season had to be cancelled for the first time because of unsafe ice and an inability to regulate the fishery.

Barb Avers from the Wildlife Division gave the Commission information on changes to the Wildlife Conservation Order to reflect the way we manage Canada geese. The changes are meant to address increasing nuisance complaints and health and safety issues associated with a growing Canada goose population, including the advent of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the population. The changes would expand permitting for nest and egg destruction from certain parts of the state to statewide. Round up of geese will continue to be allowed in limited situations. Relocation of birds will no longer be allowed, however, because of concerns about spread of disease, lack of suitable relocation sites and because this tactic has not proved effective. USDA Wildlife Services will be conducting all roundups beginning in 2025, eliminating the use of private contractors. Permit fees would also be adjusted. This program will be piloted in 2025 to assess costs, logistics and capacity.

Randy Heinze from the Wildlife Division told the Commission about changes to regulations on the Windsor State Game Area in Ingham County. Currently there is an archery only restriction on the southern half of the game area and a shotgun only restriction on the northern half. In recent years, 63 acres were removed from the 320-acre game area for a new lab and 30 acres were removed for a State Police shooting range. The department will change the whole game area to archery only because of concerns around safety.

A legislative report was also provided and is listed below.

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

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

## **September 2024 Legislative Updates**

**SB 985 – Removes Reference to Fire Protection Fund – Sen. Klinefelt:** This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to remove references to the fire protection fund from the Municipal Forest act, directing the funds that would have been deposited into that fund into the general fund.

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

*If you would like to learn more about any bills listed, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at <https://www.legislature.mi.gov>.*

## **Division Updates**

### **Executive Division**

#### **Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy**

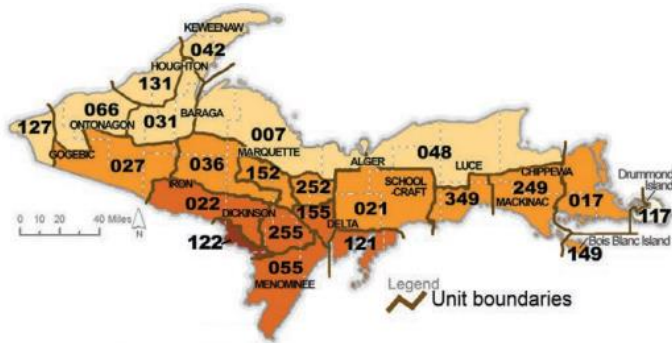
- 2024 Michigan Deer Hunting Regulations Summary: [deer\\_regs\\_summary.pdf \(michigan.gov\)](#)
- All online Regulation Summaries: [Regulation Summaries and Handbooks \(michigan.gov\)](#)

- Quick Access to Deer Hunting Guide (QR Code):



## SEASON DATES AND BAG LIMITS

### Upper Peninsula DMU map







Isle Royale of Keweenaw County (not pictured) is closed to deer hunting.

### Upper Peninsula APRs

- Look at the Upper Peninsula DMU map and locate the DMU(s) you wish to hunt.
- Match the color of your desired DMU(s) to the color(s) in the Upper Peninsula APRs chart to see the type of deer you may harvest in each season based on your license.

**Antler point restriction key**

 Antlerless deer	 3 or more points* on one side
 At least one antler 3 inches or longer	 4 or more points* on one side

\*A legal point must be at least 1 inch long as measured from its tip to the nearest edge of the antler beam.

		Seasons				
		Early archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Late archery (through Dec. 10)	Late archery (after Dec. 10)
Single deer license						
	Deer combo license	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:
Single deer license	Restricted tag					
	Deer combo license	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:
Single deer license	Restricted tag					
	Deer combo license	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:
Single deer license	Restricted tag					
	Deer combo license	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:
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Single deer license	Restricted tag					
	Deer combo license	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:
Single deer license	Restricted tag					
	Deer combo license	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:
Single deer license	Restricted tag					
	Deer combo license	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:	Regular tag:

DMU 117 has a limit of ONE antlered deer.

Youth hunters 16 and younger and apprentice license holders are exempt from APRs in all seasons, in all deer management units and under all licenses, which also includes the four-point APR on the restricted tag. A legal antlered deer is one with one antler 3 inches or longer. **If a youth hunter turns 17 during the season (or prior to it), they must follow APRs.**

### John Pepin, DNR Deputy Public Information Officer, Marquette

- In conjunction with WNMU-TV13, the schedule for live broadcasts of “Ask the DNR” for the 2024-2025 season has been set. The dates are all Thursday nights at 8 p.m. and include Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5 and April 3.
- We need volunteers to answer phones during the 1-hour programs. This is especially true for the Nov. 7 deer-hunting-themed program. Please contact me if you are interested in participating at [pepinj@michigan.gov](mailto:pepinj@michigan.gov) or 906-226-1352. All training provided.

## Finance & Operations Division

### Sean Sundholm, Western UP Administrative Area Manager

- A new roofing project for the crystal falls field office has kicked off with a walk through with 5 interested PSC’s showing up on site. We Expect to grade the various design bids the 14<sup>th</sup> of October. Once a design has been accepted, we can pursue contractors for the job.
- Staff are in the peak of the 2024 license season. It is anticipated that customer activity will continue to increase in October and November with early archery and firearm deer season upon us. Trail permits, ORV license and state park passport sales have tapered off a little from the peak numbers of spring/summer.

- Marquette and Escanaba CSCs had a facility assessment done mid-September; they will identify energy efficiency areas in which the department could lower energy usage. Awaiting the recommendations from the contractor that performed the energy assessment.
- Along with daily operations, many of our Western Upper Peninsula (WUP) staff have been engaged on committees looking at future customer service needs.
- Area managers have been working on developing and completing multiple minor construction projects (LED lighting, general facility renovations, health, and safety improvements) throughout the state.
- Finance and operations recently had Jo Ann Alexander, a general office assistant, promote to marketing and outreach division. We have posted to fill our open GOA position and are hoping to interview several candidates soon.

**Melissa Dzelak, Admin. Assistant, Eastern UP Area/Newberry Customer Service Center**

- *Newberry Customer Service Center Construction:* The Newberry mass timber project is moving along nicely and is currently on schedule. Electrical and data rough-ins are currently being installed. Contractors are continuing to work on installing interior framing, door frames and in-wall blocking. Additionally, overhead ductwork installation has resumed in the multi-purpose room and lobby. Exterior mass timber sealing is complete, and the painters have begun painting interior drywall where they can. The glass, curtain wall framing, glass, sunshades and light shelves were all completed last week. Window trim and caulking at interior window jambs are being installed this week. Outside, the concrete for the radio tower has been placed and concrete curbs and sidewalks are in process. State inspections held on Aug. 21 all passed and general in-wall inspections are scheduled for this week by the state building inspector.



- *Season Reminders for October 2024*

- 10/4 Archery Bear season open in LP units (thru 10/10 – 7 days)
- 10/5 Duck Hunting opens in the Middle Zone
- 10/10 Pheasant opens in Zone 1, also Sharp Tailed Grouse (through 10/31, see maps p. 69-70)
- 10/12 Duck Hunting opener in the South Zone
- 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 Booklet)
- 10/15 Gray & Red Fox hunting opens
- 10/17 Independence Hunt for deer opens (through 10/20, see p. 44)
- 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)
- 10/25 Beaver/Otter \*\*, Muskrat & Mink trapping open in U.P. (\*\* for MI Residents)
- 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.
- 10/31 Last day to acquire Bobcat kill tags (U.P. Bobcat Trapping opens next day)

**Fisheries Division**

**Darren Kramer, Western UP Fisheries Division & Cory Kovacs, Eastern UP Fisheries Division**

- Northern Lake Huron field crew retrieved temperature loggers from approximately 20 east UP coastal tributaries to Lake Huron. These loggers recorded water temperatures hourly throughout the summer and will be downloaded this fall. Temperature data are important in a number of ways, including determining suitability for trout and evaluating the potential effects of groundwater withdrawal.
- Northern Lake Huron staff did a status and trends survey of Bay City Lake near Hessel, using a variety of gear types and mesh sizes to examine the fish community of that lake. The netting portion of the survey was done in early June, with a return visit in early August to collect limnological information on the lake.

- Spring Creek Dam, Luce County, was recently removed during September. This was a small dam on Spring Creek, a small cold-water trout stream that is a tributary of the east branch of the Fox River. Michigan Trout Unlimited spearheaded the removal efforts and the project as funded by an America the Beautiful Challenge Grant awarded to Fisheries Division. Thanks to the DNR Fisheries Division Habitat Management Unit staff and Forest Resources Division Newberry Forest Management Unit staff that made this project happen!
- Fall operations at the Menominee Dam Lake Sturgeon Lift were completed from September 3<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. A total of 116 lake sturgeon captured with 15 females and 41 males were transferred upstream.
- The Republic Dam (Michigamme River) was removed during the summer (June–August) and seven of the seventeen rock arch rapids were installed by the third week of September. The contractor is on schedule and the project is expected to be completed by late October/early November.
- 892 fall fingerling Lake Sturgeon were released in the Cedar River, Menominee County in August and September as part of a long-term reintroduction program. Since 2007, a total of 6,411 Lake Sturgeon have been stocked in the Cedar River. The streamside Lake Sturgeon reintroduction program is a collaboration between DNR, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and the Fox River Natural Resources Trustee Council.
- Splake marking completed at Marquette State Fish Hatchery. The marked Splake are for stocking Lake Superior ports in Munising and Keweenaw Bay. Splake for Copper Harbor will be marked in spring 2025. The crew has worked to narrow down the number of fish marked to only the quantity needed for Lake Superior. This round of Splake will be the last of the marked cohorts leaving the hatchery. Splake after 2025 will not be marked. Managers will be evaluating the marked fish through angler reporting, creel surveys, and nearshore assessment surveys.
- Kris Nault, the new Fisheries Biologist in Baraga, started on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Kris is a native of the western Upper Peninsula who spent multiple years as a Fisheries Biologist with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission before coming home. Kris is very knowledgeable about the local waters and their fisheries.
- Field crews from the Michigan DNR Tribal Coordination Unit, Lake Superior Management Unit, and Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit, have been conducting nighttime electrofishing surveys on inland Walleye lakes. These nighttime electrofishing surveys are intended to assess recruitment of Walleye and estimate year class strength of those fish hatched in the spring and survival of stocked spring fingerlings. These are collaborative surveys and the United States Forest Service along with tribal natural resources departments will also be conducting these surveys this fall.

## Forest Resources Division

### **Tom Seablom, Western UP District Manager**

- Field work for the 2027 YOE Inventory season has started. Staff are currently training in an upgraded Inventory system. Open House and Compartment Review schedules for the 2027 Year of Entry will be posted online under the public input section along with other state forest inventory information at: [Michigan.Gov/Forestinput](https://Michigan.Gov/Forestinput).
- As of September 27, 3,317 timber sale contracts are open Western UP-wide (WUP). This represents 1,039,571 cords of timber on 56,798 acres, valued at approximately \$37.4 million. Included in this are 28 Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) sales representing 123,768 cords of timber on 6,683 acres, valued at approximately \$3.9 million. As of September 27th, 10 sales are available WUP-wide for the minimum advertised price. This represents 22,658 cords of timber. Find more information on state forest timber sales at: [Michigan.Gov/Timber](https://Michigan.Gov/Timber)
- WUP units are reporting 26 active timber sales in the WUP totaling about 3,986 acres. Units report reduced bidding competition with sales selling but few producers bidding on sales. Loggers are reporting trouble selling cut wood.
- The Forest Division's marketing and outreach staff report that many of our largest UP mills are operating below capacity. Of the 47 state timber sales offered in the UP since July 8, 60% have either received no bids or only one bid. 45% of the sales were sold for less than 24% over the listed minimum sale price. 8 sales received good bids and competition with bids between 25% and 116% over the listed minimum sale price. Lowland sales or sales with high pulp volumes continue to be challenging to sell. Pine markets remain strong, pulpwood markets especially hardwood have improved in the last 2 months.
- Units are finalizing work on the 2024 fiscal year timber harvest plan. As of September 27, about 46,976 acres have been set up for harvest treatments sale statewide, of that 11,336 acres are in the WUP.

- Commercial forest staff are working on inspections of already enrolled parcels for compliance. With the retirement of Gary Willis in the WUP, Jason Caron will be filling in for that position until that vacancy is filled. For more information on the Commercial Forest Program go to [Michigan.Gov/Commercialforest](https://Michigan.Gov/Commercialforest).
- Fire protection staff responded to 12 wildfires for a total of 17.5 acres. Fall continues to be dry and a wildfire or two could still come into play if weather conditions continue. Likely a wind event would be of concern. Currently, there are 10 people out on assignment with 5 of them being from the UP. They are in Minnesota. For the months of August and September, there were a total of 8 people from the WUP that went out for 14-day assignments.
- The forest health program reports oak wilt was detected in Marquette County for the first time on state managed land about 25 miles north of locations where oak wilt was previously known to be present. Response planning is underway, including management activities, additional surveys, training of employees, and a press release to raise public awareness and facilitate any additional detections. Some locations in the WUP where oak wilt has been confirmed to date can be viewed at [Look for Oak Wilt \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com).
- Please welcome our newest WUP staff members:
  - Jonathon Baker is a Forest Technician at the Felch field office. Jonathon has a BS degree in forestry from Michigan Tech and is working towards a MS Degree in GIS. He has work experience as a forestry student intern in the Baraga Management Unit and previous work experience as a summer student for the US Forest Service. Jonathon is from Chassell.
  - Hazel Strong is a fire officer at the Crystal Falls field office. Hazel grew up in Trout Creek and attended Ewen-Trout Creek Schools. After high school, she went to work for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community as a Fuels Module Crew Member where she gained valuable fire experience working on fire assignments to southern and western states. Currently, Hazel resides in Watersmeet with her boyfriend Gavin, two dogs, and chickens. Her hobbies are hunting, fishing, skiing and photography.

## **Scott Lakosky, Eastern UP District Manager**

### ***Timber Sales***

- Newberry FMU
  - Newberry offered 6 sales for bid this past 2 months – 3 sold for just over minimum bid, 3 went unsold.
  - Markets have rebounded some but competition for stumpage is low.
  - Timber sale harvesting activity has been down for this time of year. Currently only a few active sales.
  - FY 24 timber sale prep is nearly complete, and harvest proposals are being drafted for bid. Newberry prepared approximately 2,300 acres this FY.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
  - One bid opening in September which included 4 sales. Only one sale sold and the other three went no bid. Currently, there are 2 prospectuses advertised with bid dates in October.
  - Markets seem to be improving slightly with most loggers getting quotas for all their products.
  - Staff working diligently to complete the FY24 POW. We have received help from the Newberry and Shingleton units to help fill the hole. It is looking like we will get most of the acres on the POW completed and have the proposals submitted on time. It looks like we will be coming in with over 3600 acres prepared for timber sale in FY24.
- Shingleton FMU
  - No sales have been offered since the last report.
  - Noticeable uptick in sale activity in the unit in recent time, especially in pulpwood markets.

### ***Forest Inventory***

- The EUP district is in different stages of the compartment review process, depending on the FMU.
  - Sault Ste. Marie FMU had its compartment review meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Sault Customer Service Center.
  - Shingleton FMU had its compartment review meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup> at the Shingleton Field Office.
  - Newberry held it's 30-day public comment period and held open house at the Newberry Field Office on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Compartment review will be held at Zellar's Village Inn in Newberry on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### ***State Forest Management Plan***

- Public review of the 10-year statewide forest management plan is now open for public input until December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Plan can be viewed online at [Michigan.gov/dnr](https://Michigan.gov/dnr) > Managing your resources > Forest management strategies > DNR State Forest Management Plan.
- Public input on the 2024 State Forest Management Plan must be submitted by December 31, 2024 to [ForestPlanComments@Michigan.gov](mailto:ForestPlanComments@Michigan.gov).



## **Cultivation**

- Scarification: 743 acres of 993 acres completed from Contract with Holli Forest Products. Contractor making good progress and plans to have sites complete by end of October.
- Pre-Commercial Thinning (PCT): Forest Resource Services (FRS) completed 152.2 acres of PCT (brush saw release) on red pine plantations in the district. We have 2 oak release sites in Kinross remaining, however due to budgets and prioritizing of red pine release needed in NELP, these sites may not be completed.
- Roller Chopping
  - 788 acres of 972 acres completed. 20 acres were completed with masticator due to thickness of the deciduous stems. Sault staff are completing their final site of 55 acres.
  - One 83 acre site dropped, and another site removed from POW with further discussion of how to proceed due to advanced competition.
- Trenching: 1093 acres of 1828 acres completed across the EUP. EUP trencher currently working in the Shingleton Unit. WUP trencher assisting with workload in the Newberry Unit. Sites prioritized in the case workload cannot be completed and untrenched sites can moved to un-furrowed planting in 2026.
- Red Pine Cone Collection: The DNR is once again soliciting for red pine cones this fall. So far, there has been minimal interest in the EUP. Current pickers/vendors from previous years are stating there are very few red pine cones this year. To date, we have received 20 bushels of red pine cones and 14 bushels of White Spruce cones in the EUP.

## **Fire**

- Newberry FMU
  - Staff assisted in responding to the Round Lake fire in Shingleton FMU.
  - Staff assisted in responding to a fire on Government Island in Sault FMU.
  - Staff assisted in a prescribed burn in Sault FMU.
  - Staff were on out of state fire assignments Montana and Washington.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
  - One slash removal prescribed burn conducted in early August for 38 acres.
  - One 9 acre fire on Government Island, near the south end of Sugar Island.
  - Out of state assignments
    - Southern California – One as a Division Supervisor Trainee with the Fire Department of New York City Incident Management Team. The position task book was completed and will be sent to the fire qualification review committee in December.
    - Oregon – One as a Heavy Equipment Boss
    - Oregon – One as an Engine Boss an extended an extra 7 days making the total assignment 21 days.
    - Idaho – Two personnel dispatched with the Fire Department of New York City Incident Management Team. One as a Safety Officer and the other as a Task Force Leader Trainee.
    - Montana – One Engine Boss Trainee.
  - FY25 Volunteer Fire Department grant applications were submitted for processing to Lansing in September. Award letters are estimated to be delivered in early December.
- Shingleton FMU: One project fire near Round Lake that is 14.5 acres but is burning very deep, requiring many man hours.

## **Road and Bridge**

- Newberry FMU
  - Work on the Linton Creek, Savage Creek and Penny Creek crossings are nearly complete. Work on the Charcoal Grade and Camp 7 Road is nearly complete; the roads had ~8,000 yards of fill hauled to lift/improve the roadbed and several stone broad-based dips were installed along the north end of the Charcoal Grade.
  - Staff unplugged several culverts along the Charcoal grade due to beaver activity and installed new grates in front of the culvert ends.
  - Staff hauled in gravel to repair holes on south end of the Charcoal Grade as well as Sixteen Creek Road. Both roads were graded.
  - Chris Brown Lake Road is currently being graded.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
  - Unit staff along with PRD completed a re-decking of the Shoepac River bridge. The project took two days and cause minimal impact to residents and campers.
  - Three culverts were replaced in the Strickler GEMS area. One was done inside the GEMS for WLD and the other two were on the main forest road which accesses the GEMS. These culverts replaced aged and failing structures that were prohibiting proper water flow.
  - Beaver dam removal off of the Batty Doe Road in Mackinac County to remove water off the road and restore it to natural flow within the culverts.
- Shingleton FMU: 1 culvert placed on Cold Creek Road.

### **Facilities**

- Shingleton field office flooring project is complete, and staff is moving back into the facility.
- Construction on the new Newberry Customer Service Center/Field Office facility continues and is nearing completion.

### **Land Use**

- Shingleton FMU working on 3 large fiber LTA's. Issued 3 land use permits.

### **Research**

- MWR – Work continues the Hardwoods Research Project. Research has provided data on silvicultural systems to use to promote acceptable northern hardwoods species regeneration. EUP Units have begun to implement these systems. Hardwood gap guidance document has also been produced further demonstrating the success of the research project.
- MiCedar Research project with MTU – Field work has continued throughout the summer on the EUP portion of the project.

### **Forest Health**

- No new forest health updates for the EUP.
- New oak wilt detections in Marquette County 25 miles from previously known oak wilt infections are a priority for forest health staff to address and raises awareness of this aggressive disease where oak occurs in the EUP as well. No oak wilt infections have been detected in the EUP to date.

### **Commercial Forest (District Service Forester)**

- Field review and paperwork for new enrollments.
- Reviewing Forest Management Plans.
- Taking more calls due to the fall season.
- Reviewing withdrawal paperwork.

### **Training**

- Statewide and local trainings are underway for a new version of Michigan Forest Inventory (MiFI) system. The new system will be live in November and is the workhorse in powering our forest inventory work, as well as tying to other workflows such as cultivation and timber sales.
- Forestry staff from the Newberry FMU attended the National SAF Conference in late September.
- Internal FRD Land Survey Staff conducted training with the Sault and Newberry FMUs.
- Stream crossing training with Site condition forester and other staff.
- Mastication training for the new Skid Steer that is being delivered in October 2024.

### **Vacancies/New Hires**

- Chas Osborn hired as Shingleton GNA forester starting September 30.

## **Law Enforcement Division**

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

- **COs Brian Lasanen, Pete Shambaugh and Sgt. Marc Pomroy** conducted a patrol to work bear hunting activity in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties. The COs contacted a subject who was operating an unlicensed hunting guide operation. Violations addressed with the subject included the unlicensed guiding, illegal ORV operation, illegal tree stands, and illegal bear baits. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Pete Shambaugh** assisted PRD staff at the Porkies with multiple search and rescue operations for lost/overdue hikers. Each of the searches had positive outcomes with the subjects being located and reunited with their parties.
- **CO Jenni Hanson** received information that a bear hunter was using an unlabeled ground blind, had cut various trees on public land, and had left a frosting container in his bait pile. When CO Hanson contacted the hunter, he stated he was not from the area and was borrowing his friend's blind. The next day, CO Hanson followed up with the rightful owner of the ground blind. He admitted to cutting the trees, not labeling his blind, and leaving the frosting tub. The subject was cited for litter and was given a verbal warning for the illegally cut trees.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** patrolled Chicaugon Lake in Iron County for marine and fishing activity. Several boats were contacted, and a few verbal warnings were issued. CO VanWagner observed a boat with two subjects fishing and contacted them. There was no throwable PFD aboard the boat and one of the subjects did not have a valid fishing license. A citation was issued for fishing without a license and a verbal warning was given for no throwable PFD.

- **COs Alex VanWagner and Jared Ferguson** conducted a marine patrol on the Michigamme Reservoir in Iron County. Several boats were checked, and a few marine/fish verbal warnings were issued. The COs observed three subjects fishing on a boat in one of the bays and made contact. None of the three subjects had a fishing license and enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Steve Sajtar** patrolled the Menominee River for waterfowl hunting activity on opening weekend of early goose and teal season. At Grand Rapids Dam, CO Sajtar observed a hunter shooting at teal before the start of legal hunting hours. The hunter was also observed shooting at a drake wood duck during closed season. CO Sajtar contacted the hunter when he returned to shore. The hunter admitted to shooting at teal 11 minutes before the start of legal hunting hours. CO Sajtar explained the importance of identifying the species of waterfowl you plan to harvest before shooting it. A verbal warning was issued for attempting to take a wood duck during closed season. A citation was issued for hunting teal before the start of legal hunting hours.
- In Menominee County, **CO Steve Sajtar** observed a vehicle fail to stop at an intersection stop sign. The vehicle proceeded through the intersection and failed to maintain proper lane usage. CO Sajtar initiated a traffic stop and contacted the operator. The operator stated, "I'm sorry, I grew up around here, so I have a bad habit of blowing through that intersection." A verbal warning was issued for improper lane usage and a citation was issued failure to stop at a stop sign.
- In Menominee County, **CO Steve Sajtar** observed an individual operating a vehicle without a registration plate attached. Additionally, the driver of the vehicle was observed not wearing a safety belt. CO Sajtar initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle and contacted the driver. The driver was unable to provide a valid registration certificate, proof of insurance, or driver's license. Multiple verbal warnings and three citations were issued.
- **CO Steve Sajtar** assisted Menominee County Sheriff's Office with a single-vehicle rollover in Menominee Township. CO Sajtar arrived on scene with a deputy to find the 91-year-old male driver entrapped in the vehicle with several head lacerations. The driver was extracted from the vehicle and transferred to EMS for further medical attention.
- **CO Steve Sajtar** attended a Hunter Safety class held at Normenco Sportman's Club in northern Menominee County. CO Sajtar gave a presentation on safe and ethical hunting to the class then answered numerous questions from the students. The students were interactive and had a variety of great questions to ask CO Sajtar. While discussing safety with the students, CO Sajtar was notified of a hunter that fell approximately 18 feet out of a tree after attempting to hang a tree stand. The 77-year-old hunter was reported to have severe trauma from the fall. CO Sajtar responded emergent to the location. After receiving GPS coordinates from dispatch, CO Sajtar arrived first on scene and located the hunter in a wooded area near Pemene Falls. CO Sajtar administered first aid until EMS arrived on scene. A Guardian Flight helicopter was requested due to the location and extensive trauma. Using a backboard, CO Sajtar and three EMS personnel carried the hunter approximately 100 yards through the woods to the ambulance. Once loaded in the ambulance, the hunter was transported to a nearby landing zone and transferred to Guardian Flight personnel. The hunter was airlifted to UP Health System Hospital in Marquette. Although sustaining multiple bone fractures, the hunter is expected to make a full recovery.
- Following an incident in Crystal Falls, **CO Alex VanWagner** assisted with the execution of a search warrant for stolen property and illegally possessed raccoons at a residence in Crystal Falls with local officers. The stolen property and raccoons were located inside the residence and seized. Reports will be submitted to the Iron County Prosecutor's Office for review.
- **CO Jeremy Sergey** received information that a charter boat business owner was routinely delinquent reporting their fish catch reports. CO Sergey had warned the individual several months prior that the catch reports must be turned in on time in accordance with state requirements. CO Sergey issued a citation for the delinquent reporting.
- **CO Jeremy Sergey** was patrolling the Forestville area when he checked two individuals setting up a bear bait on Commercial Forest Land. The individuals had put all their bait in a plastic trash bag and covered it with sticks. They had also used four wheelers to get to the bait which was behind a locked gate. The gate had a big sign on it that said "No ORV's". **CO Jackson Kelly** arrived on scene and discovered the same individuals baited nearby a year prior. They had covered their bait with a tarp and plastic garbage bag and left the tarp and garbage bag there all year. When CO Kelly took them back to the bait site, the chewed-up tarp and plastic were still there scattered in pieces all around the bait site. Citations were issued for tending a bear bait with plastic and for littering. Warnings were given for ORV trespass.

### **Lt. Skip Hagy, District 2 (Eastern UP) Law Supervisor**

Great fall so far, fantastic weather lots of folks out enjoying the UP with many positive contacts. Below are some of the activity's officers have been involved in since our last CAC.

### ***DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 8-19-2024***

- **COs Andrea Dani and Brandon Maki** investigated the killing of a wolf in Delta County. A person was training his rabbit dogs when one began yelping in distress. The dog was discovered being eaten by a wolf which then reportedly displayed aggression towards the dog owner within very close proximity. At this point the subject shot and killed the wolf with a pistol then called in the report of what had happened. A report has been completed and submitted to the Delta County Prosecutor's Office for review.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was on patrol searching for early bear baits when he met an oncoming side-by-side. CO Maki observed the operator and its passenger coming down the trail without seatbelts being worn. The side-by-side pulled over to let CO Maki by. CO Maki pulled forward and began a conversation with the occupants. CO Maki discovered during the conversation that the side-by-side had not had an ORV license in over 10 years. CO Maki also observed open beverages that the occupants admitted was alcoholic. CO Maki issued a citation for failing to license the ORV and gave warnings for failing to wear seat belts and the open intoxicants. The occupants were both under the legal blood alcohol level and dumped the remainder of their drinks before CO Maki cleared the scene.

- **COs Robert Freeborn, Mike Evink and Steve Butzin** participated in shifts at the UP State Fair. Lots of contacts were made with adults and children at the DNR pocket park. Officers answered several DNR-related questions from the public.
- While on patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn** overheard radio traffic stating that MSP was trying to serve a warrant on a subject who was observed inside a residence. The subject refused to come out and ran into his bedroom. The occupants inside the house exited the residence claiming the suspect was in his bedroom and had access to several weapons. CO Freeborn arrived on the scene and helped secure a perimeter on the residence.
- While on patrol, **COs Robert Freeborn and Steve Butzin** observed an oncoming vehicle in their lane passing a vehicle. The oncoming passing vehicle forced the car in front of the COs as well as the COs off the road. The COs were able to make an enforcement stop on the vehicle and issued a citation for careless operation.
- **CO Scott Pankow** was working marine patrol on the St. Mary's River when he observed an individual in a kayak without a lifejacket on board. CO Pankow contacted the individual and was advised he forgot his life jacket. CO Pankow cited the individual for No PFD.
- **CO Scott Pankow** responded to a disorderly subject on M48 near Pickford. Central Dispatch advised the male subject who also lives on the same property in a camper is intoxicated and forced his way into another residence also on the property and took beer from the refrigerator, then went back to the camper. Upon CO Pankow's arrival on scene, MSP detained the individual. CO Pankow remained with the individual while MSP Troopers continued their investigation and subsequently arrested the individual.
- **CO Scott Pankow** was on patrol when he observed an individual operating an ORV without a helmet. He initiated an enforcement stop on the individual and noticed they also did not have ORV license. CO Pankow cited the individual for no helmet and gave a warning for operating an ORV without a license.
- **COs Justin Vinson, Mike Olesen, Scott Pankow, and Sgt. Calvin Smith** conducted a group ORV patrol on Drummond Island. The COs concentrated their efforts of illegal operation where individuals are operating ATVs along the lakeshore. The COs observed high compliance with legal operation and the required safety equipment with only a couple verbal warnings given.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol when a motorcycle passed him and three other vehicles at a high rate of speed in a no passing lane approaching a blind hill. CO VanOosten determined the man to be traveling approximately 25 mph over the speed limit. A traffic stop was conducted, and a citation was issued for passing on a hill/curve. A warning was issued for violation of basic speed law.
- **COs Cole VanOosten, Andrea Dani and Mike Evink** along with **retired Sgt Jerry Fitzgibbon** conducted a hunters education course at the Munising Baptist Church and School. In total, 33 youth and adults completed and passed the course. A field day was conducted, and participants received a breakfast put on by the church as well as all participants received a compass, hunters orange hat and hunters' orange vest that had been generously donated from the community. In addition, two students received a youth model shotgun which had also been donated by an individual in the community.

#### ***DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 9-3-2024***

- **CO Brandon Maki** responded to a report of a felonious assault where the suspect had fled and was known to have firearms. CO Maki arrived and assisted in the search of the suspect who was believed to be hiding. CO Maki joined up with a Munising City Officer, two Alger County Sheriff's Deputies, and one MSP Trooper. Officers were able to locate the suspect in the woods off one of the Munising golf course fairways and apprehended him without incident. The suspect did not have a firearm with him at the time of arrest and was lodged in the Alger County Jail.
- **CO Brandon Maki** received a report of a possible abandoned trailer/vessel at the Forest Lake Basin. CO Maki arrived on scene and met with campers who got a description of the suspects and observed a boat trailer stuck in the mud near the boat launch due to the lowered water levels, and a boat on shore. CO Maki was able to contact the trailer/vessel owner and inform them the boat needed to be removed. The suspect claimed he was going to wait for the water level to come back up before pulling the boat and trailer out but after a day of waiting realized it wasn't going to work. The suspect called for a tow company to free the trailer so they could load their boat and head back home to Illinois. CO Maki met with the wrecker company before clearing the scene.
- While patrolling Au Train Lake, **CO Andrea Dani** observed anglers in two boats. Upon contact three of the individuals were found to be fishing without a license. Citations were issued to each.
- **CO Jason Ruth** conducted a marine patrol on South Manistique Lake and observed a vessel being operated with an expired registration. After verifying the registration was expired, he issued a citation for the violation.
- **CO Mike Olesen** conducted a marine patrol of the lower St. Mary's River. During the patrol CO Olesen checked several fishermen for safety equipment as well as fishing regulation compliancy. One of the anglers was found to be fishing without a license. The angler received a citation for fishing without a license.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on marine patrol in Chippewa County when he came across an unoccupied sea plane that was floating freely in the river. CO Olesen was notified by some nearby fishermen that stated the plane had floated from the Canadian side of the river. CO Olesen contacted Canadian Fire and Police regarding the drifting plane. The owner of the plane was then provided a ride to retrieve his plane in Michigan waters. No damage occurred to the plane during the journey.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** responded to a call from Chippewa County Central Dispatch of a lost couple near Vermillion Point. Central Dispatch was able to get a GPS point off the victim's phone. They had become disoriented during a fishing trip and walked numerous miles before encountering a remote stretch of Lake Superior shoreline. CO VanOosten was able to get his patrol truck as close as possible before walking approximately 2 miles to locate the lost couple. The couple was tired, dehydrated and very happy to see the CO who led them to his patrol truck. Central dispatch was able to relay the location to the family search party who were able to pick up the couple and return them to their camping location. Both individuals declined any medical services.
- **CO Scott Pankow** was on his way to patrol Drummond Island when Chippewa Central Dispatch called out a two-vehicle property damage accident (PDA) in the ferry lane on Drummond Island. When CO Pankow arrived on scene and interviewed the parties involved, he learned one of the vehicles had rearended another that was waiting to board the Ferry. The impact caused the airbags to deploy in one of the vehicles that were involved. CO Pankow issued a citation for Violating the Basic Speed Law.

- **CO Scott Pankow and Sgt. Calvin Smith** conducted a hunter safety class in Chippewa County. The three-day classroom portion was followed by the field day that was held at the Chippewa County Shooting Association Range where the student's received hands-on firearm training in both rifles and shotguns. The students also were given a tree stand safety demonstration that was taught by **CO Mike Olesen** and a first aid / survival station was taught by **CO Jason Ruth**.

#### ***DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 9-16-2024***

- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol when a call of a fully engulfed house fire was reported by his location. CO Butzin responded to the residence and relayed that all occupants and pets were able to exit the house, a tow truck was called to remove a vehicle near the burning house and to allow fire trucks to get close enough to fight the fire. Masonville Fire Department along with other agencies responded to put out the fire. Thankfully no one was hurt, but unfortunately the residence was a total loss.
- **CO Steve Butzin** assisted the Delta County Sheriff's Office with the tow/recovery of a broken-down boat stranded on Little Bay de Noc. The boaters were able to be towed to safety and no one was harmed during the incident.
- **CO Andrea Dani** investigated a report of a cub bear taken during the Newberry 1<sup>st</sup> Hunt Period. CO Dani interviewed the hunter and confirmed the bear measured 38", four inches short of the required 42" minimum length. A report will be submitted to the Alger County Prosecutor's Office.
- **CO Andrea Dani** observed a vehicle operating on a public highway with no license plate. Upon contacting the driver, CO Dani discovered the vehicle had expired registration and no proof of insurance. The driver had purchased an ORV license in lieu of registration and thought that was good enough. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** completed an investigation and submitted a report regarding hunter harassment case. A suspect was caught on trail camera spraying bear deterrent on another bear hunter's bait pile. The suspect was interviewed and confessed to the incident. Charges are pending upon prosecutor review.
- **CO Brandon Maki and Sgt Mark Zitnik** checked a bear hunter who was hunting out of a tree stand that was placed approximately a week ahead of the allowed date to set up blinds for bear season. CO Maki and Sgt Zitnik found the bear hunter and his son in the tree stand hunting with a rifle. The hunter had a 2-inch band of hunter orange wrapped around one arm that he was claiming as his hunter orange. The hunter was issued a citation for hunting out of a tree stand that was placed too early and for not wearing a hat, cap, or jacket of at least 50% hunter orange.
- **CO Jason Ruth** was on patrol late at night when he observed an ORV being operated on the side of US 2. CO Ruth conducted a stop on the side-by-side and issued the operator a citation for operating an ORV on a highway.
- **CO Jason Ruth** was on routine patrol when he was nearly run off the road by an oncoming vehicle. CO Ruth conducted a traffic stop and the operator was issued a citation for careless driving.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Jason Ruth** were following up on a complaint near St. Ignace when they observed an ORV operating on US 2. The operator was not wearing a seatbelt and had to swerve to avoid a collision. A stop was conducted, and a citation was issued for operating and ORV on the highway and a verbal warning was given for not wearing a seatbelt.
- **COs Jason Ruth and Cole VanOosten** were on patrol when a call for backup was received for an in-progress domestic. Being the only other law enforcement in the area, the COs responded to the scene and assisted the Luce County Sheriff's Department with the investigation. Ultimately the parties were separated, and no criminal charges were filed.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol when he received an email from the father of a recent hunter safety graduate. The young hunter had participated in the youth hunt and successfully harvested a nice 8-point buck. The young hunter was extremely excited to be in the woods and confident after completing the recent hunter's safety course taught by COs Andrea Dani, Cole VanOosten, and retired Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon.

#### ***DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 9-30-2024***

- **COs Robert Freeborn and Brandon Maki** were on patrol checking a local river when they observed a fisherman trying to snag. As the COs watched the subject, they observed the fisherman foul hook 2 pink salmon. As the fisherman carried one back to his stringer, he pulled the hook out of the back of the salmon and hooked it in the mouth. The COs made contact with and asked if they fish were legally taken. The fisherman stated they were "combination" hooked. When questioned further, the fisherman eventually admitted to keeping the foul-hooked fish. A citation was issued for the fish and restitution will be sought for the fish.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** was dispatched to car vs moose accident on US2 near Seney. Upon arrival, it was found the bull moose was struck by a motorist causing significant damage to the pickup truck and killing the moose. While waiting for the wrecker to arrive on the scene, CO Freeborn quartered the animal salvaging all the meat possible so it could be processed by a local butcher to be donated to local food banks.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was patrolling the Forest Lake Basin on opening day of duck season and observed several groups of hunters for nearly 2 hours. CO Maki watched a group of hunters shoot at a Canadian goose and it fell inside the groups decoys and was clearly wounded. CO Maki observed this wounded goose inside the group's decoys for nearly 25 minutes before one hunter dispatched it. CO Maki launched his canoe and contacted the group. CO Maki issued a citation for failing to immediately kill wounded waterfowl before clearing the scene.
- **CO Steve Butzin** conducted several uniformed and plain clothes patrols on the Days River. Several violations were discovered where individuals were found to be retaining foul hooked fish, snagging salmon, fishing without licenses, and minors possessing alcohol. Several citations were issued during these patrols.
- **CO Scott Pankow and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were patrolling northbound on M123 when they observed an ORV operating in the southbound lane of traffic. The side by side was stopped and when told the reason for being pulled over, the operator stated the gas station attendant said he would be ok but just to be courteous to motor vehicles on the road. The operator was cited for operating an ORV on the state highway.

- **CO Scott Pankow and Sgt. Calvin Smith** patrolled Munuscong Bay for the waterfowl season opener. CO Pankow located lead shot in possession of one hunter. The hunter was cited for possession of toxic shot while waterfowl hunting, the shells were seized as evidence.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** received a complaint of an in-progress trespass in Luce County. The complainant provided CO VanOosten with photographs taken from his motion activated cellular cameras throughout his property. The photos showed four bear hound hunters walking through his 600-acre property with a gun and several game back packs. While enroute to the area, CO VanOosten observed a man sitting in the tall grass next to a nearby road with four bear hunting dogs. The man admitted to trespassing on private property to kill a bear. The hunter said they parked right at the gate, walked around the gate and past the cabin before walking through the property. The hunter said they had trespassed on that property for many years and that they never had a problem, stating he believed the fine for trespass was only \$75. When asked where the bear was, the hunter stated that it had already been quartered up. When asked again where the bear was the man showed CO VanOosten several backpacks and game bags in the roadside ditch that the bear had been cut up and placed in. It was determined that nearly 5 hours after the bear had been killed, quartered, and transported out of the woods it still had not been tagged with the hunters kill tag. The man was issued a citation for failure to immediately tag a black bear. Upon further investigation of the trespass, it was determined that the locked gate the hunters went around was well posted with 5 no trespassing signs visible at the point of entry to the property. CO VanOosten observed foot track impressions going around the gate and towards the cabin as well as tire track impressions leading up to the gate that matched the hunters' vehicles.
- **CO Jason Ruth and Sgt. Calvin Smith** assisted the investigation by walking the property and locating the bear carcass and entrails. Sgt Smith located the tree where the bear had climbed to avoid the dogs. It was determined that the bear had been treed and killed on an adjacent private property to the complainants. CO VanOosten received a call from the adjacent landowner who stated he also did not give anyone permission to hunt on his property. A report was generated requesting charges against the hunters for recreational trespass, which will most likely result in much more than a \$75 fine the trespasser said he usually gets.
- **COs Jason Ruth and Cole Vanoosten** patrolled the Tahquamenon River on the duck opener. Many duck hunters were checked, and the COs noted high compliance with the regulations. One hunter was issued a citation for not having any personal flotation devices (PFD) in his boat for himself or his two hunting buddies.
- **COs Andrea Dani and Justin Vinson** completed a weeklong advanced marine training that was held in Sault Ste. Marie. The COs learned advanced operation and navigation techniques operating large great lake vessels in both day and night.

## Marketing & Outreach Division

### **Jon Spieles, Chief of Marketing & Outreach Division (MOD)**

- *DNR Instagram Record:* We recently set a department record on Instagram, with a video receiving over 2.2 million views. It was a trendy engagement piece that struck a positive note with people around the country, resulting in massive reposts and story shares. The department's Instagram account is now approaching 100,000 followers, larger than any state agency (giving the DNR the #1 and #2 accounts for the State of Michigan on Instagram).
- *From X to Threads:* After recent changes and a review, we have determined that X will no longer be a focus for the department, and the resources will be shifting to Threads as a more beneficial communication medium.
- *YouTube:* The DNR digital content creator has continued to build the department's YouTube presence to be more in line with trends and proper social media use, generating over 280 direct conversations in the most recent community content posting.
- *DNR social media administrator* has been working with the governor's office to get additional highlights for Nature Awaits and other outdoor programs through Governor Whitmer's social channels.
- *Shooting Range Activities:* Additional seasonal employees hired to assist with maintenance at Echo Point and Barry ranges as use at these sites begin to match some of our busiest ranges.
- *Range Improvements:* Contract issued to construct storage facilities at Ortonville and Pontiac Lk ranges.
- *Archery in the D:* Archery Coordinator conducted USA Archery Level 1 certification course for the Detroit Police Department. She also attended NASP conference in Ft Worth, TX.
- *Nature Awaits:* Programs have now been served or booked for almost 20,000 4<sup>th</sup> graders around the state. Our most popular parks are Hoffmaster, Belle Isle and Maybury. School participation this fall is 32% rural, 47% suburban, and 21% urban. Out of the 95 teachers that completed our evaluation, the only one that did not commit to returning for another program was a teacher that was retiring!
- *Interpretive Programming:* The interpretive team presented over 500 public programs during the month of August alone at our 10 visitor center sites presenting fishing, archery, birding, and a variety of resource-oriented programs. When Explorer Programming is included, that total grows to over 1,700 programs.

- *Academy of Natural Resources – North* was held at MTU’s Ford Center in Alberta. With a focus on forestry, participants were given their own woodlot to inventory and plan. Other visits/topics were Native American forest management, DNR forest management, forest products and history.
- *Spanish*: The DNR has translated the 2024 Michigan Fishing Regulations summary to Spanish. The guide is available [on the DNR website](#) and is the department’s first translated regulations document in many years.

## **Parks & Recreation Division**

### ***Eric Cowing, Eastern UP District Supervisor***

#### ***Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island***

- Brimley Utility Improvement (waterline/storm water replacement): Construction started September 3.
- Lime Island Cultural Resource Plan Project: 50% review has been submitted and an extension for 90% has been requested.
- Brimley Underground Primary Electric/Transformer Replacement (Design/Build): Transformers were installed in September. Contractor also replaced HQ line and installed new disconnect/breaker box at HQ due to summer outage. All work passed LARA inspection & substantial completion has been applied for.
- DeTour Harbor Surge Protection System Improvements: Construction started on September 9.
- Vacant DeTour Seasonal Ranger Position: Screening candidates.
- Remaining state workers (STWs) will be done for the season on October 12. All units still have a few STWs still working.
- Brimley: Camping numbers have been tracking in line with 2023.
- DeTour State Harbor: Harbor numbers have been tracking in line with 2023.
- Lime Island Recreation Area: Cabin rentals have been tracking in line with 2023.
- Staff have been busy winterizing buildings/facilities, completing fall projects and completing required DNR/SOM trainings.
- Lime Island is closed for the season.
- Lime Island solar system has not been operating properly. The Department is looking into replacing/upgrading system possibly next year.
- Brimley is closed due to waterline, stormwater & day use construction.
- DeTour Harbor is closed for the season....a little early due to electrical upgrade.

#### ***Tahquamenon Falls State Park***

- Lower Falls Portage Campground Electrical Improvements: Glen Construction LLC has been selected as the contractor for the project. Construction is underway and will be complete by Memorial Day weekend 2025. The project will provide much needed upgrades to the electrical service in that campground loop, including adding an additional 15, 50-amp sites and providing each campsite with its own electrical service.
- Upper Falls Brink Overlook: ASI Environmental from Ludington has been awarded the bid for construction, which will begin on October 14 and is expected to be completed by July 31, 2025. The brink viewing platform will be closed during construction, but the Upper Falls unit will remain open through construction, with the 3 main viewing areas from above and the gorge steps remaining open.
- Lower Falls Water Distribution Project: Moore/Trosper has been awarded the bid for construction and will begin in late October 2024. The project is slated for completion in mid-May 2025.
- The park is once again hosting an Americorps NCCC team this fall. The crew of 8 will be working alongside park staff to improve accessibility on the North Country Trail as it winds through the park and also on a couple of park infrastructure repair projects.
- The park will once again be hosting lantern lit snowshoeing events every Saturday in February 2025. Stay tuned for more information.
- With both Lower Falls campgrounds being closed for construction this winter, we will be offering winter camping at the Rivermouth unit for this year only.

#### ***Newberry Field Office***

- Started site improvement project at Brevort Lake boating access site.
- Milakokia Lake State Forest Campground boating access site capital outlay project is in progress.
- State forest campground and boating access site maintenance.
- In the process of filling the vacant Ranger A position.


#### ***Indian Lake and Palms Book***

- Indian Lake State Park’s phase 2 shoreline project has received approval from EGLE, but reduced the scope of work to 888 linear feet of shoreline.
- Indian Lake improvement project is in phase 500 final review.
- Palms Book improvement is in phase 500 design.

- Waiting on a contractor to see if mud jacking the cement floor at the beach shelter would even be a possibility to fix the sinking cement slab.
- More state workers are departing for the season.
- Palms Book attendance for August is up 6% from the previous year.
- Big Springs souvenirs shop reported the largest one month sales in August.

**Doug Rich, Western UP District Supervisor**

**Camping**

Bewabic State Park	We found oak wilt again in our campground, treatment programs for the same will commence.	Up	4	
Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew	The crew repaired and replaced wall and ceiling joists as well as siding at the campground office at Twin Lakes in September.	Down	2	
Wells State Park	Shoreline armoring project started after Labor Day	Similar to the same period last y...	4	
Escanaba Field Office	Staff from Escanaba Field Office have begun armoring the 800+ feet of shoreline at JW Wells state park	Closed / N/A	4	
Van Riper State Park	Van Riper State Park was down 122 camp nights in FY 2024 from FY 2023.			
McLain State Park	The Sewage Lagoon replacement is in full swing with the warm weather working in our favor.			
Twin Lakes State Park	Camping has gone up this year probably due to McLain being closed and the weather being nice.			
Fort Wilkins Historic State Park	We are operating at 50% capacity due to campground closure for construction of the West Campground Toilet Shower, but the 50% has been sold out most every night			
Baraga Field Office	Baraga Construction crew developed a winter parking area for Craig Lake SP for accessing cabins and yurts. In addition, hauled several tons of road gravel to Craig Lake SP to stage for the 2025 National Guard IRT partnership.			
Baraga State Park	The park is up approx. 12% for the year and has already surpassed 2023 camping numbers. We are projecting that we will surpass 2022 and possibly even our best year, 2021. This is mostly due to ARPA projects at other local state parks. Baraga SP had the honor of hosting the Michigan State Parks one millionth camp night. The couple, Kelly and Kathy, from Howell, Mi were enjoying their first stay in a Michigan State Park along with their two brothers and a family friend. They were riding side by sides and watching their friend's son play football at MTU. See photos.			







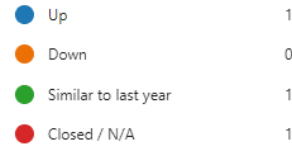
**Overnight Lodging**

Fort Wilkins Historic State Park	One cabin is closed for construction.	● Up	3
Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park	Porkies - the Gitche Gumme, Whitetail and Union River 8 bunk cabins each received a fresh coat of stain. The Lost Creek Yurt had a new vinyl roof, and wall panels installed.	● Down	2
Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew	The Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew replaced the cedar shake roof and made repairs on the historic stone building at J.W. Wells State Park in July. The Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew replaced windows and doors at Crosscut and Speakers cabins in the Porcupine Mountains in August. The Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew replace the shingles on the campground office at Lake Gogebic in September.	● Similar to last year	3
Craig Lake State Park	There are no significant changes to overnight lodging within the last reporting period at Craig Lake State Park. The park is up 13 camp nights in the cabins and yurts from the same time frame as FY 2023.	● Closed / N/A	6



**Boating Access Sites and Harbors**

Bewabic State Park	Asphalt sealcoating project has begun at boat launch within Bewabic State Park.
Baraga Field Office	Baraga Construction Crew worked on a ramp replacement at Oman Creek BAS. See Photo.
Twin Lakes State Park	We had the KISMA boat wash station at Twin Lakes in July, and they had a good turnout.
Van Riper State Park	The boating ranger from Van Riper State Park has worked the past few weeks to renovate the vault toilet at Forestville Boating Access site. The site is a partnership agreement between the DNR and Marquette Board of Light & Power.
Escanaba Field Office	Fisheries related- Staff from Escanaba completed an annual dredge at the fish hatchery in Marquette.
Baraga State Park	BAS sites were busy with the warm weather. We had a memorial bench donation at Silver River BAS. See photos.




**Completed Ramp at Oman Creek BAS**




**Memorial Bench Donation at Silver River Falls BAS**



### Trails

Bewabic State Park	Two bridges at Lake Mary Plains Pathway remain closed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: blue;">●</span> Up 3</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">●</span> Down 0</li> <li><span style="color: green;">●</span> Similar to last year 11</li> <li><span style="color: red;">●</span> Closed / N/A 2</li> </ul> 
Baraga State Park	ORV camping, staging area and trail use remains high.	
Little Presque Isle State Forest RA	Trail work within the Van Riper State Park Unit at Little Presque Isle State Forest is coming along well and the contractor is working to get projects wrapped up before the snow flies.	
Van Riper State Park	Van Riper State Park applied for a received a MNRTF Grant in 2019 for the replacement and or/repair of the Overlook Stairs within the park. After being unsuccessful through the bidding process multiple times, a bid was awarded earlier this summer, and the earthen stair structure was completed. Amazing work done by the contractors to provide a safe and great quality project for the park.	
Fort Wilkins Historic State Park	Trails use has been heavy	

### Day Use

McLain State Park	The warm weather at McLain has increased the number of day users, and the campground being closed brings in more day users that like to walk a quiet unoccupied campground and lakeshore.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: blue;">●</span> Up 3</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">●</span> Down 0</li> <li><span style="color: green;">●</span> Similar to last year 11</li> <li><span style="color: red;">●</span> Closed / N/A 4</li> </ul> 
Bond Falls Scenic Site	Day use has been close to last year; however, we do not have staff for every day of the week and are having to send staff from Baraga SP to collect the fee pipe and maintain the site.	
Menominee River State Recreation Area	Oak wilt was found again within the Piers Gorge Unit of the MRSRA.	
Copper Harbor / Eagle Harbor	Nice fall weather has kept things busy	
Fort Wilkins Historic State Park	Both trails and day use have been very busy due to nice weather.	
Baraga Field Office	Baraga Construction Crew has mobilized and begun development of an entrance drive and parking lot for Houghton Douglass Falls Scenic Site. Phase I of the project consists of a parking area, ADA vault toilet and kiosk. All of which will be completed by the Baraga Construction Crew.	

### Design, Construction, Capital Outlay and ARPA Projects

Lake Gogebic State Park	Engineering and design continue for our ARPA upgrades at Lake Gogebic. Work on the headquarters sewage is slated to begin this October. Campground upgrades are still in the planning phase.
McLain State Park	Houghton-Douglass Falls has started its first phase of construction thanks to the DNR Baraga Construction Crew, we are asking the public to keep out of the property to allow them the space to safely do their jobs.
Little Presque Isle State Forest RA	Construction continues at Little Presque Isle State Forest and all present trail work and parking areas look excellent. The renovation of the existing parking areas was much needed, and the area is getting busier and busier each year.
Menominee River State RA	Design continues for ADA access improvements/ new bridges and the Piers Gorge Unit.
Fort Wilkins Historic State Park	West campground new toilet shower building is currently being constructed. Anticipated to be complete by spring 2025.
Bewabic State Park	Planning for 2025 construction at Bewabic. Major closure for camping at Bewabic for majority of 2025 season.
Van Riper State Park	Within Van Riper State Park, the central sewage lift station received some maintenance and repair, and the lagoon valves will be repaired later this month. These repairs are crucial to the operation of the wastewater system for Van Riper State Park.
Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park	ARPA, the sewer system upgrade is at 90% completion.

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

Van Riper State Park	Van Riper State Park just completed its final weekend of Harvest Festival which was a second spooky weekend full of Halloween festivities for the guests and visitors to the park.
Bewabic State Park	Lead ranger and seasonal ranger vacancies continue. Accounting assistant vacancy just ended! Sarah Ozzello started pay period 9/15/2024
Baraga State Park	Baraga State Park is finally fully staffed for career staff with the addition of rangers Joshua Brouwer and Nicole Lukkari. STWs have begun leaving for the season.
Twin Lakes State Park	Campground hosts at Twin Lakes had a successful 4th of July bike parade, and the explorer guide put on a few fishing tournaments and programs that were also successful and had good attendance. Senior Ride is September 26th for the Mi-Trale group, and they will be stopping at Twin Lakes for lunch at the day use shelter.

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park	Porkies - The park interpreter hosting a wild mushroom identification and cooking class at the ski chalet. Porkies - Staff applied for and won a \$20,000 grant from Hearts of Stihl, the monies will be used to treat ash trees to prevent emerald ash borer. (EAB) Porkies - Fall color chairlift rides begin September 21st from noon - 6pm on Saturdays and Sundays, until October 12th.
	The Porkies won the Hearts of Stihl grant for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) treatment. PRD Chief Ron Olson accepted the award at the National Association of State Park Directors annual conference. The grant will provide \$20,000 for treatment of ash trees from EAB in the Porkies.

**Parks & Recreation Division – UP Trails Section**

***Ron Yesney, UP Trails Section Supervisor***

▪ ***Peter Costa, Eastern UP***

Project Names	Description	Trail Use	Anticipated Completion	October 2024 Update
Haywire Grade - 11 Bridges	Engineering and replace 11 bridges	ORV/ Snowmobile	TBD	Waiting on approval and NEPA process from the USFS.
Trail 8 - 3 Bridges	Engineer and replace 3 bridges	Snowmobile	2025	Change order for the Melstrand culvert engineering and Contactor has been completed. Engineering moving forward with design and soil borings.
Grass Creek Bridge – Snow Trail #8	Bridge failing on the Sunrise grade. Design and replacement needed.	Snowmobile	TBD	Waiting on funding.
Betsy River Bridge – Snow Trail #452	Large bridge failing north of Paradise. Design and replacement needed.	Snowmobile	TBD	Waiting on funding.
Sunrise Grade – Snow Trail #8 LFRHW Crossing	Failing bridge on Snow Trail #8. Design, engineering and construction needed to relace	Snowmobile	TBD	Waiting on funding.
12 Mile-Gaines Hwy Trail #49	4.2 miles of roadbed and a failed bridge. Design, engineering, and construction needed to build up roadbed and replace the crossing.	Snowmobile	TBD	Club to try and salvage existing bridge to keep the trail open this year. Funding will be needed to move this forward.

▪ ***Rob Katona, Central UP***

Project Names	Description	Trail Use	Anticipated Completion	October 2024 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 & ORV Routes	Fall 2024	All work has been completed.
Snowmobile Trail 2 Dickinson County Bridges/ Culverts	Replace 2 bridges with large bottomless culverts or new bridges depending on EGLE permit.	Snowmobile	Fall 2024	Project has been completed.
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	Fall 2024	Work has begun and should be completed in early October.
Clowry Grade Bridge #6	Design and rehab/construction of multiple bridges on this designated ORV/snowmobile multi-use Rail-Trail in Marquette County.	Rail Trails	TBD	Need funding for construction; no new updates.
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	TBD	Still waiting on MDOT, no new updates.
Clowry ORV Improvements	Continue filling low areas and culvert replacement on the Clowry Grade ORV C & CL routes.	Rail Trails	Fall 2024	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	October 2024	Much work has been completed with work occurring on bridges and remaining parking lot.
Days River Single Track Trail Construction	Approximately 10 miles of single-track trail construction designed for mountain bike use.	Non-Motorized & Mountain Bike	TBD	Tentative letting for bids has been moved out to 2026-27.
Tyoga Pathway Bridges	Replace one bridge and replace or rehab second bridge both spanning the Laughing Whitefish River.	Non-Motorized	TBD	No new updates.

LPI Songbird Trail and Harlow Creek Bridges	Replace two popular pedestrian bridges on LPI songbird trail & pathway to cabin #6 & north trail system.	Non-Motorized	TBD	No new updates.
Laughing Whitefish Falls Bridge	New pedestrian bridge construction on NCT over Laughing Whitefish River at the Laughing Whitefish Falls Natural Area.	Non-Motorized	TBD	No new updates.
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	2025	Letting for bids is tentatively planned for 2025.
Forest Islands Trailhead Improvements	Use remaining funds from open contract to improve two trailheads on this trail system. Work includes expanding parking, filling low areas, constructing a picnic area with tables and grills and creating accessible walkways to new picnic area and facilities.	ORV	Summer 2024	Work began (Q3).
Felch Grade Surface Improvements III	Gravel capping on the Felch Grade in Menominee and Dickinson Counties.	ORV	Fall 2024	Work on scopes for other projects (Q3).
Gwinn-Arnold Improvements and Restoration IV	ORV G route Marquette County filling, gravel, and culvert work.	ORV	Fall 2024	No new updates.
Marquette County ORV Routes Improvements	Repair large holes, replace culverts and surfacing on multiple ORC routes in Marquette County.	ORV	Fall 2024	No new updates.
Delta-Menominee ORV Routes Improvements	Minor bridge railing and decking repairs on Felch Grade, replace culverts and surfacing work.	ORV	Sept. 2024	Projects completed.
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 2024	Two treatments were completed.
Proposal: 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	TBD	No new updates.
Proposal: Ishpeming-Negaunee-Sands ORV Routes Proposal	ORV routes that would provide connectivity to several communities and looped riding opportunities in central Marquette County. Proposals are pending securing land permissions and/or trail easements.	ORV	TBD	Municipalities and MCRC are in support, currently working with Cliffs.
Proposal: Negaunee ORV Extension	Extend ORV route in Negaunee along IOHT to provide legal RR crossing and access to roads/routes open to ORVs to the east. Work will include new trail construction and large culvert installation. Snowmobile trail will be relocated off of non-motorized IOHT to new trail segment.	ORV & Snowmobile	2025	Work continues with trail construction; should be completed in October.
Proposal: 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	Fall 2024	No new updates.
Proposal: 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 2024	No new updates.
Proposal: 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	Summer 2024	Trail approved; 20 miles was signed and designated between Gwinn-Little Lake and Sands with work continuing on the remaining segment.

▪ **Jeff Kakuk, Western UP**

- Snowmobile Trails
  - Trail Sponsors have received their 2025 snowmobile grants and have begun preparing for the 24/25 season.
  - Several Trail segments have been impacted by infrastructure failures or winter timber harvesting. Clubs and DNR are continuing to work on connectivity solutions.
- ORV Trails
  - WUP ORV Grant sponsors will have invested over \$600,000 into the trail system this year. Much of that funding was for trail grading and infrastructure engineering.
  - 2025 ORV Grants should be executed in early October.