



Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: December 2024 (information current as of 11/25/24)

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

Meetings/Events/Press Releases

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

DNR Public Meetings

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

December 2	Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, Virtual, 6pm (906-226-1331)
December 5	Michigan State Waterways Commission, 10:45am (517-285-0747)
December 5	Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup, 1:30pm (517-331-6219)
December 10	Trails Advisory Council, 1pm (517-331-6219)
December 10	Accessibility Advisory Council, 1:30pm (517-897-6311)
December 11	Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, 9am (517-284-5954)
December 11	State Parks Advisory Committee, 2pm (517-284-6135)
December 12	Natural Resources Commission, Lansing, 9:30am (nrc@michigan.gov)
December 12	Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, Virtual, 6pm (906-226-1331)
December 13	Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council, 10am (517-582-3204)
December 19	Board of Foresters, 9am (989-370-9557)
January 9	Natural Resources Commission, Lansing, 9am (nrc@michigan.gov)

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

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

For all activities: [DNR Things to Do Calendar](#)

January 25	Fayette Historic State Park – Lantern-lit Trail
January 25	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park- Lantern-lit Guided Snowshoe Hike
February 1	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park- Lantern-lit Guided Snowshoe Hike
February 7-9	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park- Midwest Telefest 2025
February 8	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park- Lantern-lit Guided Snowshoe Hike
February 15	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park- Lantern-lit Guided Snowshoe Hike
February 22	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park- Winter Snowburst Carnival

Recent DNR Press Releases

For full details, go to: [DNR Press Room](#)

- DNR announces 2025 Community Forestry Grant recipients (11/19/24)
- NotMISpecies webinar: Invasive purple jewelweed in the Upper Peninsula (11/18/24)
- Parks, timber, trails and more on agenda for DNR December meetings (11/18/24)
- DNR News: Fall hunts, birding basics, fun 5Ks, new 'Wildtalk' and more (11/13/24)

- Mark your race calendars with these three 5Ks (11/7/24)
- Firearm deer season's five-day quiet period begins Sunday (11/7/24)
- DNR staffers to answer viewer questions live on 'Ask the DNR' Thursday on WNMU-TV13 (11/6/24)
- Share thoughts on annual state forest road updates by Dec. 1 (11/1/24)
- November hunting and trapping opportunities (11/1/24)
- Showcasing the DNR: The 10 best practices for firearm deer hunting season (10/31/24)

Grant Contacts

For grant information, to go: [DNR Grants](#)

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

Western UPCAC Update

The **Western UP Citizens Advisory Council** will meet on December 12 in a virtual format. Items on the agenda for discussion include: DNR responses to several resolutions, a preliminary overview of the 2024 deer season, an update on the 2024 fire season and an update on the upcoming snowmobile season. The group will also determine their 2025 meeting dates and locations. The next anticipated meeting will be held in January via Zoom.

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

November NRC Meeting Summary

The Natural Resources Commission met on the downtown campus of Lansing Community College on November 7.

The only major action: Resource Deputy Shannon Lott – acting for Director Scott Bowen -- approved seven land transactions. Details of those transactions can be found [in the NRC agenda online](#).

At the beginning of the meeting, Law Enforcement Division Chief Jason Haines presented lifesaving awards to Conservation Officers Brad Bellville and Jimmy Garrett. On Jan. 20, 2024, the two were patrolling Roscommon County when they received a call from central dispatch that a 79-year-old man was unconscious, not breathing and in need of medical attention. Within two minutes, the COs arrived on scene and were met by the victim's wife, who informed them that her husband was in the bathroom. The officers found the victim lying on his back, half in and out of the bathtub. A neighbor was giving compressions. They removed the victim from the bathtub, laying him on the floor, and began assessing his vital signs noting a weak pulse and no breathing. CO Bellville began chest compressions as CO Garrett prepared the AED pads for placement. The AED delivered a shock to the victim. CO Bellville then continued compressions while CO Garrett administered breaths. As the officers continued to provide life-giving aid, a second, third, and finally, a fourth shock were delivered. Upon delivering the fourth shock, the Houghton Lake Ambulance Authority arrived and took over care. Before leaving the scene, the victim's heart was beating, and he was breathing. Unfortunately, the victim passed away four days later. Nevertheless, the officers were recognized for their fast action in a desperate and difficult situation.

Fisheries Committee

Marc Gaden and Dan Zielinski of the [Great Lakes Fishery Commission](#) gave a presentation on FishPass. Marc gave an overview of Great Lakes fisheries management and the origins of the Commission. Dan then discussed [FishPass](#). FishPass will replace the deteriorating Union Street Dam on the Boardman River in Traverse City with a new barrier to all fish. The barrier will have the ability to sort and selectively pass desirable fish species while blocking harmful invaders like sea lamprey. Fully automated selective passage is the long-term goal of the project. Passage of any fish during the initial 10 years will be coordinated with fishery management agencies, including the DNR, limited in number, and [restricted to fishes native to the upper Great Lakes](#).

Paul Rose, chair of the [Upper Black River Council](#), discussed beaver management on the Upper Black River in Cheboygan, Montmorency, Otsego and Presque Isle counties. Beaver dams are becoming an increasing problem for the fishery, Paul said. He discussed possible solutions.

Bryan Burroughs, executive director of Michigan Trout Unlimited, discussed Michigan TU's comments on DNR's new policy on Management of Adverse Beaver Impacts on Trout Populations.

Finally, Mark Luttenton, interim director of the Grand Valley State University [Annis Water Research Institute](#), provided ecological context on trout and beaver interactions on the Au Sable River.

How to Participate in the NRC Meetings

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

Division Updates

Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Chief

- **Social Media Growth:**
 - A video of a fish ladder posted Oct. 4 has more than 10 million views, generated almost 300 comments, been shared 1,400 times, and has nearly 55,000 likes. It has sparked a lot of curiosity and demonstrates how interested people are in seeing what we do.
 - Instagram account now has more than 100,000 followers – new record
 - A recent YouTube video ("[Tree falls on man while deer hunting, man survives](#)") has performed well, gaining 14.2K views and 27 new subscribers.
- **Preparing for Parks Visits:** Able Eyes, a Lansing-based marketing firm, recently completed eight virtual tours of DNR-managed locations. The tours offer an immersive, 360-degree experience, allowing visitors to explore a variety of state parks, visitor centers and even a fish hatchery. Aimed at helping guests of all abilities prepare for their visit, the tours have been added to the [DNR's accessibility page](#) and respective web pages.
- **Klondike Reef Expedition:** Brad Parsons joined the Fisheries Division to film the crew and work of "The Klondike Reef Expedition" in late September. All 10 crew members were involved with the production, including on-camera interviews. The goal is to create an expedition film bringing the viewer along for the journey of the conservation work our staff does every day for the people and resources of the state. While on the trip, Brad also captured 360-degree video footage, which can be viewed on the [DNR's YouTube page](#).

- **Nature Awaits Field Trips:** DNR hosted more than 12,000 students from nearly 500 classes for state park visits this fall. One hundred percent of the fall teachers have said that they recommend the program and 100% have also said that they plan to attend the program again next year. October 9th will mark our first group of students that flew by airplane to their Nature Awaits field trip. The 4th graders from Beaver Island are visiting Young State Park.
- With Michigan School Data reporting **14% of students having a disability**, we are finding ourselves doing programming on paved paths more often than expected and not able to visit deeper into forested habitats. We would like to assess which parks are more accessible, and which we could explore the possibility of paved pathways in the future.
- **Michigan Alliance for Outdoor and Environmental Education Conference:** DNR was well-represented at the state's primary environmental education conference in Grand Rapids in late September. Jonathan Massung and his team, along with John Zakrajsek from the Carl T, hosted a salmon fishing session on the Grand River. Although no salmon were caught during the program, everyone was smiling and gained confidence in their fishing abilities.
- **Range Activities:** Construction has begun on Ortonville and Pontiac Lake storage facilities. Planning underway with MUCC on improvements to the archery range facility at Cedar Lake Outdoor Center.
- **DEER CAMP Coffee Partnership:** The DNR has entered into an agreement with DEER CAMP Coffee to promote the department's wild-game donation program. Under the agreement, the company sells coffee in bags that are specially branded for the DNR's charitable program and donates a percentage of proceeds to the program. As part of the promotion, the company also includes a DNR deer patch in certain bags to further encourage sales. DEER CAMP Coffee is a Michigan company.

Office of Public Lands – Tori Irving, UP Field Analyst

- Keweenaw
 - Several public engagement opportunities are scheduled in the Keweenaw Peninsula, focusing on the General Management Plans for Fort Wilkins and the Keweenaw Point state lands, as well as The Nature Conservancy's Keweenaw Heartlands Project. Staff from the OPL and multiple divisions remain actively involved in both initiatives, ensuring that communication is coordinated and effective between the projects.
- Newberry Mass Timber Visit
 - OPL staff members, Tori Irving (U.P. field analyst) and Marley Wolff (MI Healthy Climate Corps member), along with Sandra Lupien (MassTimber@MSU) were on-site at the Newberry Customer Service Center where community members and representatives from the forest products industry explored the building's interior, admiring the use of mass timber throughout. During the tour, staff engaged with attendees and answered questions about the building. Participants were particularly interested in the potential for Michigan mass timber and the impact on the regional economy.

Fisheries Division-Eastern UP – Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Biologist

1. Northern Lake Huron field staff conducted a fall juvenile walleye evaluation on Caribou Lake (Chippewa County). Caribou Lake was stocked with approximately 56,000 spring fingerling walleye this year, and the survey was done to evaluate the strength of the current year class. Results available upon request.
2. Northern Lake Huron and Lake Superior management staff participated in a St. Marys River Fisheries Task Group meeting. The task group has representatives from state and provincial agencies, federal (U.S. and Canadian) agencies, tribal agencies, and educational institutions.
3. Northern Lake Huron and Lake Superior management staff continue to work with EGLE and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on environmental considerations with the construction of the new lock in Sault Ste. Marie.

4. Planning is underway to remove McAlpine Trout Pond Dam (Mackinac County) in 2025 with project coordination led by Huron Pines. This impoundment has been drawn down for 15+ years.
5. Lake Superior and Habitat Management Unit staff have been collaborating with Superior Watershed Partnership for the removal of the Big Trout Lake fish barrier. Through America the Beautiful Challenge grant funding, the Big Trout Lake fish barrier is planned for removal in 2025. The fish barrier was built in 1978 with the purpose to block white sucker migration into Big Trout Lake, protecting the stocked trout fishery. Today, the Big Trout Lake fishery consists primarily of warmwater species with an ancillary stocked Brown Trout fishery. Therefore, blocking white sucker is no longer necessary and the aging dam is planned for removal.
6. Lake Superior management staff met with Sands Township Board to discuss Strawberry Lake fisheries management. Strawberry Lake, located on the Marquette County fairgrounds has been stocked annually with brook trout since 1991. Netting surveys conducted since 2012 have captured brook trout growing slowly and not achieving the 15-inch minimum size limit regulation. A recommendation was made to the Sands Township Board to change the regulation for Strawberry Lake from Type-D to Type-A. The change would reduce the minimum size limit for brook trout from 15 inches to 10 inches and would allow for more harvest opportunity. This proposal will be vetted through spring public meetings.
7. Lake Superior management staff completed annual inspections on Fisheries Division owned dams across the eastern UP. These annual inspections are required per our dam safety standards and by EGLE.
8. Lake Superior field staff completed various inland trout lake surveys in Alger, Luce, Schoolcraft, and Maquette counties. These lakes are stocked with trout and are being evaluated as part of the management prescription recommendations. These evaluations are helpful in determining stocking success and appropriateness of management.
9. Staff obtained an approved EGLE permit for a stream restoration project on the Hurricane River, Alger County. In October, Michigan Trout Unlimited-Fred Waara Chapter, Michigan DNR Fisheries Division, Alger Conservation District, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service used slash material gathered from a nearby timber sale to create bankfull benches at the H-58 crossing. Slash material was bundled and anchored with jute rope to large rock to direct the stream flow back to its center. By redirecting, sediment and woody debris can freely pass, and the crossing will no longer be a fish barrier during low water periods.
10. Great Lakes muskellunge production at Thompson State Fish Hatchery was outstanding this year! The production goal was 40,000. Although the final tally has not yet been calculated exactly, the hatchery staff was able to produce around 48,000 fall fingerling muskellunge and were stocked statewide. The staff is also holding an additional 3,000 muskellunge for yearling production for development of our inland broodstock lakes. Thompson hatchery was assigned all the fall fingerling muskellunge production in 2024 due to much need construction being completed at Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery. Wolf Lake staff collected eggs, incubated fry, and spent time early tank rearing the muskellunge until they were transferred to Thompson hatchery ponds for growing out. Great teamwork by all the Fish Production staff from Wolf Lake and Thompson hatcheries!
11. Cory Kovacs was promoted as the Lake Superior Unit Manager in November. Cory will start in his new role on November 25th. Cory was previously the Fisheries Biologist in Newberry where he has been since 2011.

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

Project Name: Trail 8 – 3 Bridges	Project Name: Haywire Grade – 11 Bridges
Description: Engineer and replace 3 bridges	Description: Engineer and replace 11 bridges
Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use: ORV/Snowmobile
Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: TBD
12/24 Update: Soil borings and site survey done. Project engineering being worked on.	12/24 Update: Waiting on approval and NEPA process from the USFS.
Project Name: Grass Creek Bridge Snow Trail #8	Project Name: Betsy River Bridge Snow Trail #452
Description: Bridge failing on the sunrise grade. Design and replacement needed.	Description: Large bridge failing north of Paradise. Design and replacement needed.
Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use: Snowmobile
Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: TBD
12/24 Update: Waiting on funding.	12/24 Update: Waiting on funding.
Project Name: Sunrise Grade Snow Trail #8 LFRHW Crossing	Project Name: Trail #49 – 12 Mile/Gaines Hwy
Description: Failing bridge on Snow Trail #8. Design, engineering and construction needed to replace	Description: 4.2 miles of roadbed and a failed bridge. Design, engineering and construction needed to build up roadbed and replace the crossing.
Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use: Snowmobile
Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: TBD
12/24 Update: Waiting on funding.	12/24 Update: Club has fixed the existing bridge and beaver have been removed to drop the water levels. Trail will be open this winter. Bridge and trail still need funding to upgrade.

Forest Resources Division: Scott Lakosky, Eastern UP Supervisor

Timber Sales

Newberry FMU

- No offered sales since the last report.
- Markets for pulp have slowed since the summer uptick.
- Timber sale harvesting activity has been slightly below average for this time of year. As the seasons change some loggers are beginning to prep for moving into winter sales.
- Foresters have begun work on prepping 2025 timber sales on both state land and GNA work on the Hiawatha National Forest. The pleasant fall weather has been very conducive to productive field work.
- Staff attended a meeting hosted by Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association in Newberry on 10/22.

Sault Ste. Marie FMU

- Offered 9 timber sales across the unit in the month of October and 3 timber sales to be bid out in November; 3 sales went unsold, 1 in Naubinway and 2 in the Sault office.
- Fiscal Year 2024 timber sale prep was completed on time because of a great team effort from unit staff and assistance from adjacent FMU's.
- Staff and contactors have begun work on fiscal year 2025 timber sale prep.

Shingleton FMU

- No offered timber sales since last report.
- Staff have begun work on 2025 fiscal year timber sales.

Forest Inventory

- Public review process and meetings for fiscal year 2026 forest management in the EUP have wrapped up in each FMU.
- Michigan Forest Inventory (MiFI) system was successfully released to production in early November after several years of planning, development and testing. Upgrade, internal data updates and performance enhancement work is ongoing, as well as training using the new desktop and mobile programs.
- Dates have been set and are to be published to the public for the upcoming year.
- Field work for 2027 YOE using the new system has begun.
- Internal EUP forest inventory kick-off meetings are scheduled for early December in each FMU.

State Forest Management Plan

- Plan can be viewed online at 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.

Cultivation

2024 Work Plan Completion

- 843 acres of rollerchopping completed with an additional 103 acres objectives completed by other methods, and 1 site dropped due to advanced deciduous competition.
- 1093 acres of trenching completed with approximately 735 acres not yet completed due to a late active fire season. Work is ongoing to meet complete as much as possible.
- 152 acres of contractor pre-commercial thinning to release red pine plantations across the EUP and 2 oak sites in Kinross.
- 1018 acres of scarification across the UP with 78% of that in the EUP.

Fire

Newberry FMU

- Responded to several fires in October throughout the EUP district, it has been a busy fall in terms of fire suppression.
- FOs from Newberry participated in Fire Prevention Days at both Tahquamenon Area Schools and Three Lakes Academy
- Several staff have fitness test qualified in preparation for the upcoming fire season.
- Newberry hosted an Experiment Station Fire Equipment Showcase for fire staff from other areas and states.

Sault Ste. Marie FMU

- 2 reportable fires in the Unit for 1.1 acres
- Fires were burning deep into the ground with the lack of precipitation.
- 3 non-reportable fires in the Unit
- Soo Unit fire staff and Technician assisted the Shingleton management unit with a 63-acre fire Northwest of Seney.
- All FRD unit staff and two WLD staff took and passed their annual firefighting fitness test.
- One prevention program with Smokey Bear done at St. Ignace Elementary School.
- The Cranberry Bog prescribed burn site was reviewed multiple times with the dry weather in October. The site was too wet to meet objectives for a burn.

Shingleton FMU

- Responded to several fires within the unit and assisted with several fires outside of protection area.
- 3 reportable fires within the protection area including the 63-acre Fox fire, northwest of Seney.

Road and Bridge

Newberry FMU

- Stream Crossing Capital Outlay Projects along the Camp 7 Road and Charcoal Grade are being wrapped up. There will be a final grading along both roads. In addition, seeding/mulching, ditch diversions and stone water bars will be placed near the Linton Creek Crossing.

- Chris Brown Lake Road was graded by DNR staff.

Sault Ste. Marie FMU

- One 40' portable bridge redecked on site of an active logging sale.
- New bridge on Spile Dam Road in Rudyard has been sent out for bids. This project is funded by Snowmobile program, but the trail is on FRD administrated land.
- Soil erosion and sedimentation control permit and plan has been closed and documented for the Strickler road and GEM culverts.

Facilities

- Shingleton carpet replacement project completed.
- Construction continues on the Newberry Customer Service Center. Project is within budget. Move in date can't be confirmed yet but is expected to be mid-to-late January.

Good Neighbor Authority

- Sault Unit fire staff working on a 235-acre masticating GNA project in Raco. Project is on-going.

Land Use

- A research permit was issued to LSSU for a project around the Algonquin pathway for research related to historical flooding events along the historic shorelines of Lake Superior.
- Other research permits involving research being reviewed.
- Several inquires regarding road easements and application process within Newberry unit.

Forest Health

Fall is the best time to survey for Heterobasidion root disease (HRD). Forest health program staff have been following up on reports of red pine mortality pockets and surveying stands at high risk for infection within 5 miles of a known positive prior to harvest. So far, only two positive locations are known in the UP. Neither are on state land. Current known positive locations and the 5 mile advisory zone can be found at [Look for Heterobasidion Root Disease](#).

Training

- EUP FRD District meeting was held for all relevant staff for training and team building.
- Statewide and regional in-person new MiFi trainings occurred across the state.
- Introductory forest inventory field training was held in the Sault FMU.
- Forest inventory field tour training and discussion was held in the Newberry FMU.
- Advanced forest inventory training is scheduled for relevant EUP staff in December.
- New staff attended New Employee Orientation training.
- Forestry staff attended Michigan Society of American Foresters Fall Meeting in Marquette.
- Staff received online training in Incident Command Systems (ICS).

Vacancies

- One staff member working out of class (WOC) to back-fill a temporary statewide vacancy.

Finance & Operations Division: Becky Randazzo, Eastern UP

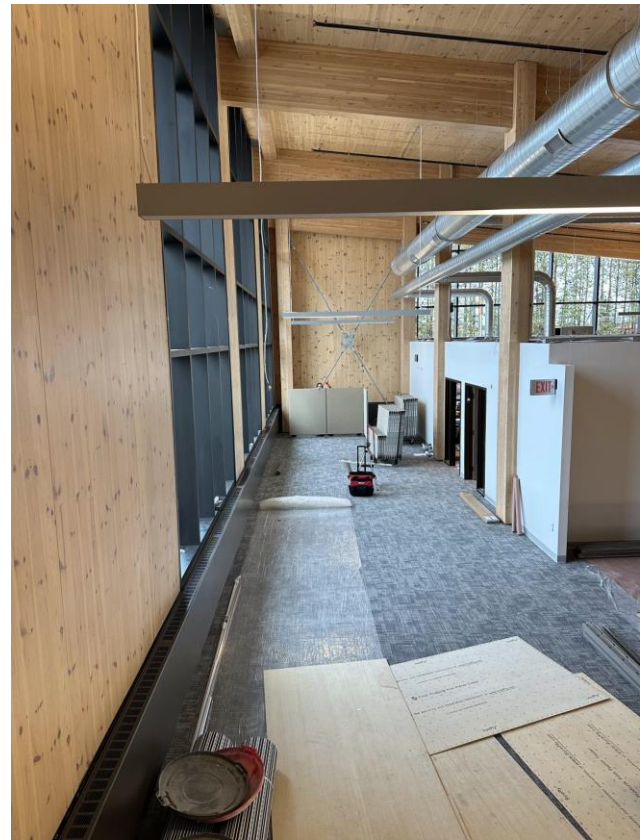
Season Dates to Remember

12/1	Late Archery Deer season opens (12/1 through 1/1) – no crossbows in the Northern U.P. DMUs without a disability permit
12/1	Ruffed Grouse season re-opens (12/1 through 1/1)
12/1	Late pheasant hunt opens (12/1 through 1/1, see digest p. 7 for open areas)
12/1	Pike & Muskie Spearing season opens (see p. 16-17)
12/6	Muzzleloader Deer season opens (through 12/15)
12/6	Fisher and Marten trapping open (through 12/15, see digest pgs. 6,7)
12/14	Elk Season #2 opens (through 12/22)

- 12/10 Bobcat Trapping open for Units C, D, and G (closes 12/29)
- 12/10 Bobcat Trapping opens for Unit H (closes 12/20)12/15/24 – Fisher & Marten trapping close – pelts must be sealed by 12/18/24, see Fur Digest
- 12/16 Late Antlerless Firearm Deer season opens (through Jan. 1) – see p. 9 for areas
- 12/31 Bass season closes (possession)
- 12/31 Muskie (possession) closes in St. Clair, Detroit, and Boundary waters
- 12/31 Last day to apply for 2024 Pure Michigan Hunt
- 1/1 Can apply for Spring Turkey license
- 1/1 Bobcat hunting opens (must be a MI resident)
- 1/1 Lake Trout & Splake open for N. Lake Huron and N. Lake Michigan – see p. 21 for limits
- 1/1 Late Season Pheasant closes (portions of Zone 3), and Ruffed Grouse season closes
- 1/1 Deer Archery season closes (exception – see digest pg. 9 - close Jan. 31)
- 1/1 Urban Archery (until 1/31) see pg. 9 for counties
- 1/2 Extended late antlerless firearm (through 1/12) see pg. 9 for counties
- 1/3 Last day for deer head submissions (1/5/25 if using a drop box)
- 1/8 Last day to register bobcat taken by trapping (Units C, D & G)
- 1/11 Bobcat Hunting closes in Unit H
- 1/17-18 Free Snowmobiling Weekend
- 1/18 Bobcat Trapping closes in Units A & B
- 1/20 Bobcat Hunting closes in Unit G
- 1/28 Last day to register U.P. bobcats taken by trapping (Units A & B)

Newberry Project Update

- Concrete composite panel installation is substantially complete, flashing cap is being installed this week.
- Doors and hardware have been installed in the carpeted areas. Remining will be installed the week of 12/2 following final polishing of the concrete floor.
- J Ranck continues to install interior light fixtures and wiring devices. Power to mechanical equipment is complete. Fire alarm & lighting controls system installation has started.
- Johnson & Wood has been working on equipment start up. The boilers have passed state inspection. Air system testing and balancing is in progress this week and next week.
- Plumbing fixture installation at the bathrooms will be completed this week.
- The first load of furniture was delivered and loaded into the building this week; assembly is in progress.
- Polished concrete at the Lobby area has been ground, final sealing and finishing will be completed the week of 12/2.
- Remaining wood siding is in the process of being ordered & shipped. Anticipated delivery is the week of 12/2.
- MEP (Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing) inspections and Owner training is scheduled for the week of 12/2.
- DTMB Network staff will be onsite the week of 12/16 to start data cabling.
- Photos are as of November 21.





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

It's been a busy deer season with plenty of hunters, little tougher hunting without snow, so far anyways. The division is gearing up for our next Conservation Officer Academy beginning this January, 22 candidates have been selected to attend. We are hopeful that some of these new officers will be assigned to District 2 to bring our staffing levels back up. Below are some of the activity's officers have been involved in since our last CAC.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 10-13-2024

- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint in Escanaba Township that an individual was witnessed operating a motor vehicle on an ORV trail that runs through private property on a section of trail that is closed to motor vehicles. The individual stopped his vehicle on the ORV trail and proceeded to defecate in the middle of the trail, the individual then left leaving behind a large amount of uncovered toilet paper and fecal material on the trail. CO Butzin ran the license plate on the vehicle which was provided by the caller. The owner of the vehicle was then discovered to have a valid misdemeanor arrest warrant. CO Butzin traveled to the individual's residence and discussed the issues. CO Butzin collected bond for the misdemeanor warrant, cited the individual for the unlawful dumping/litter and gave a warning for operating a motor vehicle in a closed area.
- **CO Steve Butzin** attended an event in Ludington Park in Escanaba and taught groups of girl scouts how to cast a fishing pole, bait a hook, and fish. Many fish were caught that included bass, perch, and sunfish. Overall, the girl scouts seemed to enjoy fishing and hopefully they continue sharpen their skills and continue to keep fishing in the future.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** served an arrest warrant for hunter harassment on a subject from this fall who sprayed bear deterrent on a hunter's bear bait pile.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** picked up the roadkill moose meat from the processor and brought it to the local food pantry. They were very grateful for the large donation of meat.
- **CO Andrea Dani** assisted as a mentor at a Beyond Becoming an Outdoors Woman event in Washtenaw County. The program partners with Washtenaw County Parks from which the hunting property is provided. These properties are usually closed to hunting but are graciously opened for specific events to assist with deer management and over-browsing. Five new archery hunters were taught basic hunting skills, deer biology for shot placement, habitat used for scouting, ethics, laws, safety, tree stand/blind set up and safety, and are provided one-on-one instruction at the Sharonville Shooting Range. On Saturday and Sunday of the event each hunter was paired with a mentor and hit the woods for a mentored hunt. Despite the very warm temperatures limiting deer movement, two participants were able to successfully harvest a deer. The participants were then gathered for a group tracking demonstration, field-dressing demonstration, and harvest reporting registration demonstration.
- **COs Jenni Lehto and Andrea Dani** instructed a shotgun handling and shooting course at the Becoming and Outdoors Woman event held at Bay Cliff Health Camp in Big Bay. The goal of the course was to build confidence around firearms and perhaps gain the interest of new hunters. Participants were taught basic firearm safety, how to identify the type of and how to work the action of several shotguns, how to choose an appropriate shot size for their desired game, and the importance of appropriate gauge shot shell for their firearm. The participants were then able to apply their newfound skills with trap shooting. Several participants had never shot a firearm before and were eventually able to demonstrate great accuracy.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** were patrolling Luce County for marine and duck hunting activity. The two officers contacted an individual on a remote lake hunting out of a canoe. The hunter was found without a PFD. A citation was issued.
- **CO Scott Pankow and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were on patrol near the Tahquamenon River Mouth Campground when they observed an ORV operating southbound on State Hwy M123. CO Pankow and Sgt. Smith initiated a traffic stop on the ORV. A citation was issued for operating an ORV on a State Hwy.

- **CO Scott Pankow and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were on patrol near Pickford when they noticed an individual operating on ORV without a helmet and no ORV license on a County Road. CO Pankow initiated a traffic stop on the ATV and issued a citation for operating on ORV without a helmet and a verbal warning was given for no ORV license.
- **CO Scott Pankow** was on patrol when he received a complaint from an individual in Mackinac County. The caller advised there were bird hunters that were driving down a County Road when they exited the vehicle and shot onto his property. The caller advised the hunters missed and continued down the road further onto State land, where they continued hunting. CO Pankow responded to the area and while enroute, he noticed a vehicle that fit the description given by the caller. CO Pankow initiated an investigatory traffic stop. During the stop, CO Pankow located an uncased firearm. Through speaking with the suspects, CO Pankow learned that one of the hunters was attempting to shoot a woodcock. The hunter was cooperative and did bring CO Pankow back to the area where he shot at the Woodcock, which CO Pankow determined was on the complainant's private property which was posted against trespassing. One hunter was cited for uncased firearm in motor vehicle and a report will be submitted to the Mackinac County Prosecutors office seeking charges of recreational trespass on the other individual.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on patrol in Chippewa County when he observed a group of dirt bikes traveling 3 abreast towards his patrol truck. CO Olesen activated his emergency lights and maneuvered his vehicle to the shoulder of the road to avoid a collision. CO Olesen contacted the group of 5 riders and cited the rider operating to the far left of the initial 3, who were operating side by side for careless operation. If CO Olesen would have continued his initial path a collision with at least one of the dirt bikes would have been highly likely.
- **CO Jason Ruth** assisted the Mackinac County Sheriff's Department with a domestic assault that had occurred. The suspect was taken into custody without incident and lodged in the Mackinac County jail.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 10-28-2024

- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** hosted two hunter safety field days in Alger County. The COs were assisted by local volunteers Dan Hinza, Allan Augustyn, and DNR Wildlife Technician Don Brown; live fire of pellet guns was provided by UP Whitetails Association of Alger County's Norm Balko.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was informed of two subjects possibly hunting inside the safety zone (150 yards from a residence) early one morning. CO Maki was in the area and responded to AuTrain Lake to investigate. CO Maki spoke with the complainant and the neighbor to pinpoint where the shots came from earlier in the morning. CO Maki located the suspect residence a few houses away and made contact. The suspect admitted to hunting and showed CO Maki where the shots were taken from. CO Maki determined that the shots were well within the safety zone and informed the suspect a report would be submitted to the Alger County Prosecutors office for review before clearing the scene.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** first responded to a two-car PI accident where a pickup truck failed to yield while crossing a busy county road and struck an oncoming vehicle. There were two serious, but non-life-threatening injuries sustained in one of the cars. A medical helicopter was called to assist due to the condition of one of the passengers. A citation was issued to the driver of the pickup truck that was at fault.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on patrol in Chippewa County when he observed an ORV being operated with an expired ORV registration. CO Olesen performed a traffic stop on the ORV and cited the operator of the ORV into Chippewa County Court for operating an ORV without a valid ORV license.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was performing a shining patrol in Chippewa County when he observed a vehicle along the side of a road near some secluded agricultural fields. CO Olesen pulled up to the vehicle and contacted the operator and passenger. It was determined that they were not hunting but CO Olesen observed two open alcohol containers in the vehicle. CO Olesen ran the operator of the vehicle through standard field sobriety tests and cited both the operator and passenger for possession of open intoxicants in a motor vehicle.
- **COs from District 2** made an arrest in a long-term investigation of many larcenies from state forest campground registration pay pipes in northern Luce County. Surveillance techniques were deployed throughout the summer of 2024 that assisted in developing a suspect and the vehicle that was being used. The surveillance techniques showed an individual retrieving money from the locked pay pipes at the campground. After four months, contact was made with the suspect who was actively stealing money from the locked depository pipes at state forest campgrounds. Upon contact, the COs recovered the burglary tool used and possessed by the suspect. Additionally, COs recovered nearly \$2000 that had been stolen from the pay pipes of five state forest campgrounds that weekend (including several recorded bills previously placed in the pay pipes). The suspect vehicle was towed and upon an inventory search of the vehicle, COs found clothing that matched clothing worn by the suspect at previously recorded thefts. The suspect was interviewed and confessed to his actions throughout 2023 and 2024. The suspect was lodged in the Luce County Jail and was held on statewide felony warrants from the Attorney General's office. The man was tied to eleven different thefts that had been recorded via surveillance since June of 2024. Charges requested include safe breaking, Larceny >\$1000, tampering with locked depository box, possession of burglary tools, and operating on a cancelled driver's license. Assisting agencies included the Michigan State Police, Sault Ste. Marie Police Department and Mackinac Bridge Operations.

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 11-12-2024

- **CO Scott Pankow** was on patrol west of Rudyard on H40 when he observed a Kubota Utility Vehicle operating down the roadway with a lone occupant not wearing a seatbelt. CO Pankow initiated a traffic stop and contacted the driver. After CO Pankow performed a file check on the subject, it was found that he had a Revoked Driver's License and 9 priors for alcohol violations. CO Pankow cited the individual for – Operating an ORV with Suspended/Revoked License.
- **CO Scott Pankow and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were on patrol on Drummond Island when they received a complaint of a dispute between a nearby landowner and hunters. Per the caller, the landowner took the callers cell phone, and they were being harassed by an individual while grouse hunting on public land. CO Pankow and Sgt. Smith responded to where the complainant was staying and made contact. The complainant advised that he was hunting with his friends on state land and an individual with land in the area contacted them and advised them to pay attention to where they are at while bird hunting because he had private property nearby. The landowner left then later came back telling them again to watch where they are going, and it would be a great idea to stay off his land. At some point one of the hunters had dropped his cell phone and while looking for it the landowner returned a third time and told the hunters he had found it, but they could have it back for \$400 then drove away.
- **CO Scott Pankow and Sgt. Calvin Smith** responded to the residence and made contact with the landowner. The landowner was highly intoxicated and was advised why CO Pankow and Sgt. Smith responded to his residence. CO Pankow and Sgt. Smith were able to get the caller's phone back and returned to him. There will be a report submitted to the Chippewa County prosecutor for review.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol near the two hearted river when two off road vehicles (ORVs) pulled out in front of him at a high rate of speed. Neither operator was wearing a crash helmet, and one operator was driving against the flow of traffic. A traffic stop was conducted, and citation issued for no helmet on an ORV.
- **COs Jason Ruth and Cole VanOosten** conducted an additional hunters' safety field day in Newberry for 15 eager hunters who had missed the previously offered classes. Participates drove as far as 6 hours to complete the last-minute field day before deer hunting season.
- **CO Mike Olesen** assisted the Michigan State Police from the St. Ignace Post with a drowning victim on Brevort Lake.

Wildlife Division: Dave Lemmien, UP Wildlife Supervisor

- **Fall Projects and Items**
 - Sharp-tailed grouse season ended on October 31st. This was the 15th year since the season re-opened in 2010. There were approximately 5,000 acres of Hunting Access Program lands available that provide public hunting access on private lands for sharptail hunting during the season. Early indicators and anecdotal reports suggest that hunters were out on HAP lands once again, and some hunters reported good success in seeing birds. Hunters come from all over Michigan and from other states to pursue sharptails in the far east UP. In 2023, 198 hunters reported over 1,900 observations and harvested 113 birds. In addition, woodcock numbers were reported to be spectacular in some areas of the east UP.
 - DNR staff partnered with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and the Sault Saint Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to plant wild rice at several locations in the EUP in the fall of 2023 including Blind Sucker Flooding and Dollarville Flooding in Luce County, Black Creek Flooding in Mackinac County, and the Saint Mary's River system in Chippewa County. Wild rice is an important wildlife food and of high cultural and spiritual value to tribal members.
 - Outreach efforts: The Youth in the Outdoor survey is in its fourth year at the Newberry office. The purpose is to gather information about youth interests in outdoor pursuits and create opportunities to meet those needs. Participation in the survey has increased annually.
- **Deer**
 - The Deer Camp Survey is a cooperative effort between the DNR and numerous UP hunters for the 16-day regular firearm season. This is a voluntary survey where interested participants provide sighting and harvest information during the firearm season. The survey is used to monitor deer sightings, harvest, and hunter opinions. A report of the results is sent out to participants in mid- winter. Survey materials were sent out to approximately 450 camp contacts before the 2024 firearm season.
 - Once winter settles in and deer migration has occurred, staff will begin the annual opportunistic winter deer track survey concentrating in and around Deer Wintering Complexes to indicate deer presence or absence in areas of the UP in an effort to continually monitor use of wintering areas.

- Winter Conditions: This winter has started off with relatively mild temperatures and very limited snowfall in much of the EUP. DNR staff monitor snow conditions weekly from early November through early May using a system called SNODAS (Snow Data Assimilation System). This allows staff to see winter snow fluctuations and have a measure for potential impacts of winter on deer and other species at the end of season.

- **Bear Harvest Summary**

- 2024 UP bear harvest number is 1,394. 2024 harvest is 1% below the 2023 bear harvest, however, the 2024 UP harvest is 17% above the desired harvest which was 1,196.
- 2024 NLP bear harvest number is 471. 2024 harvest is 6% above the 2023 bear harvest, however, the 2024 NLP harvest is 11% below the desired harvest which was 528.
- High temperatures caused issues with meat spoilage. We'll be continuing to try to message to hunters the importance of planning ahead to get their bear field dressed, cooled, and processed as soon as possible to avoid losing any meat or the hide.
- Overall, we had good hunter success across the state.
- Hunter reports were positive about number of bears at baits despite the high temperatures.
- Bears are in good condition going into dens.

Parks & Recreation Division (PRD): Eric Cowing, Eastern UP District Supervisor

Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island

- Brimley Utility Improvement (waterline/storm water replacement): Construction started September 3. All waterlines have been bored with connections/valve install on-going. Stormwater system has been installed and Day use culvert has been removed. Substantial completion is May 19 for campground and June 15 for day use.
- Lime Island Cultural Resource Plan Project: Final report was presentation was presented November 8.
- Brimley Underground Primary Electric/Transformer Replacement (Design/Build): Unit has received O&M and waiting for official project closeout.
- DeTour Harbor Surge Protection System Improvements: Construction started on September 9. New breakers and ground fault system has been installed, new cement pads for connection boxes and hangers for electrical cable. Substantial completion is May 15.
- Lime Island Solar System Replacement/Upgrade: Held a mandatory pre-bid meeting on Lime Island on October 25, with 8-10 contractors in attendance. Bids are due by November 8, with a potential project start in spring of 2025 running to June 15.
- Vacant DeTour Seasonal Ranger Position: Will re-post position after the first of the year.
- All state park workers were done for the season on October 12.
- Brimley has one seasonal ranger going on layoff on November 9.
- Munuscong State Forest Campground: Was very busy with campers for waterfowl opener and has seen steady use this fall.
- Brimley had two rangers and DeTour had one ranger attend the Ranger Operations Academy at the RAM Center October 7-November 1.
- Unit rangers have been clearing/brushing Algonquin and Pine Bowl Pathways getting ready for cross-country ski season.
- Two rangers with snowmobile hours have been assisting the EUP trails ranger with pre-season trail inspections.
- DeTour rangers have improved a few sites at DeTour State Forest Campground.
- A big thank you to Todd Sumbera & Jason Ruth (LED) for assisting PRD in shuttling contractors to Lime Island on October 25.

Fayette Historic State Park

- **Townsite:** Contractor starting on Casting House copula work. Townhall East siding replacement is ongoing by staff.
- **Park:** Visitor Center ADA upgrades still ongoing contractor moving forward until weather gets too cold. Replacement of 5 of the parks drain fields moving forward with a completion the middle of December. Fall Fest October 4-5, weather was great and was one of the biggest turnouts we have had in the 19 years. January 25 is next lantern lite ski/snowshoe/hike.

Indian Lake State Park & Palms Book State Park

- Indian Lake State Park phase 2 shoreline restoration project has begun. Construction phase of the project will be completed this fall with planting to follow in the spring.
- Indian Lake State Park toilet shower buildings design will be changed to include heat and insulation.
- Palms Book parking lot and raft improvements are to be put on hold.
- Palms Book entrance booth electrical project has been submitted for review and approvals.
- Two seasonal rangers have departed for the season.
- Rangers have finished their inspections of snowmobile trails in Schoolcraft, Alger, and Delta Counties.

Newberry Field Office

- Brevort boating access site project completed October 10.
- Milakokia Lake boating access site capital outlay project substantial completion November 20.
- Started building vault toilet buildings.

Straits State Park/Mackinac Island State Harbor/Father Marquette Memorial

- DNR staff completed work project at Brevort Lake Boating Access Site to help with parking and the flow of traffic.
- Father Marquette (Heart of Great Turtle Island) will be rebid in November.
- The mortar repair of the new upper toilet shower buildings was completed this fall.
- Straits has a vacant commissioned ranger position and conducted interviews.
- No events at this time
- Campground closed for the season October 15. Still steady with walkers and some looking at the sites.
- State forest campground was steady this fall and continues to see some camps
- Boat launch piers were pulled the week of November 10 for the season.
- Straits will groom ski trail through the park once the snow comes.

Tahquamenon Falls State Park

- Lower Falls Portage Campground Electrical Improvements: Is on schedule and may be completed yet this fall. 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, MI has been awarded the bid for construction, which began October 14 and is expected to be completed by July 31. 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 mid-November. The project involves installing 2 new water wells to serve the Lower Falls Unit and associated underground piping. The project is slated for completion in mid-May.
- The park hosted an Americorps NCCC team here this fall. Team "Maple 2" completed numerous projects during their time here including replacing a day-use erosion wall at Andrus Lake SFC, pouring a concrete well pad for a hand pump, building picnic tables, repairing erosion prone areas on our trail system, & installing fencing in several areas around the park.
- Park staff will again be surveying for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in the winter months this year. Thankfully, no sign of the invasive insect has been detected yet.
- The park will once again be hosting lantern lit snowshoeing events every Saturday in February 2025. Stay tuned for more information.
- Due to ongoing construction within the Lower Falls Unit, the park will be offering camping options this winter at the Rivermouth Unit. Semi-Modern campsites will be available along with the camper cabin.

Public Information Office: John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer

- In conjunction with WNMU-TV13, the remaining schedule for live broadcasts of "Ask the DNR" for the 2024-2025 season will be Thursdays, December 5 and April 3 at 8 p.m.