



STATE OF MICHIGAN



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: April 14, 2008
RESUBMITTED: May 12, 2008

<p>A P P R O V E D</p> <hr/> <p>, 2008</p> <p>MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION</p> <hr/> <p>(ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION)</p>
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MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Furbearer Regulations
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 9 of 2008

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

Michigan furbearer management includes providing recreational hunting and trapping of various species while at the same time attempting to minimize threats to non-targeted animals. Factors considered in determining recommendations include biological and social concerns, input from stakeholders, other DNR Divisions, and Wildlife Division field staff. This amendment restricts trapping within State Recreation Area (SRA) day use areas, and reopens sections of Newaygo and Mecosta counties to beaver and otter trapping.

Due to the expanding seasons of visitation, and continued population growth adjacent to park lands, conflicts between user groups has become an increased concern on SRA. In order to address concerns within developed areas, restrictions on trap use are being recommended. We recommend that trapping within 50 feet of the mowed portion of a developed area such as a picnic area, children’s playground area, campground, or administrative area in any Michigan State Recreation Area be prohibited, without written authorization from the park manager.

Beginning in the early 1980s, sections of the Pere Marquette and White Rivers in Newaygo County were closed to beaver and otter trapping. The closure was initiated to increase beaver and otter populations on tributaries of both rivers through dispersal of animals from the main streams. In addition, public land in Colfax Township Mecosta County was closed for the same reason. Otter registration data for that area indicates that this species has populated many tributaries resulting in a dispersed population of otter. Conversations with local trappers and field biologists provide evidence that beaver populations have similarly expanded onto tributary streams as desired.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Keith J. Charters, Chair • Mary Brown • Hurley J. Coleman, Jr. • Darnell Earley • John Madigan • J. R. Richardson • Frank Wheatlake

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Therefore, it is recommended that the Pere Marquette and White Rivers in Newaygo County and public land in Colfax Township Mecosta County, be opened to beaver and otter trapping.

Recommendation:

This order was submitted for information on May 8, 2008 at the Natural Resources Commission Meeting. This item appeared on the Department's April 28, 2008 calendar and may be eligible for approval on June 5, 2008.

Douglas A. Reeves, Acting Chief
Wildlife Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division

Patricia A. Spitzley, Chief
Office of Legal Services

Rodney Stokes, Acting Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Arminda S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy

Dennis Fedewa
Chief Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 9 of 2008

Under the authority of sections 40107 and 40113a, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being sections 324.40107 and 324.40113a of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources orders that, effective June 6, 2008, the following sections of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

7.1 Hunting or trapping in state parks or game refuges; designating where permissible; permits; hunting or trapping in state recreation areas.

Sec. 7.1. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter or section 3.412, or by permit issued by the director, no person shall trap or hunt with firearms or dogs or in any other manner in any state park, state game refuge, or other lands under the control of and dedicated by the department as a game refuge or wildlife sanctuary.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter or in section 3.412, state recreation areas shall be open to hunting and trapping during established seasons.

(3) Trapping in state recreation areas, except as otherwise provided in this chapter, shall be limited to those areas at least 50 feet outside of the mowed portions of developed picnic areas, swimming beaches, parking lots, boat launches, children's playground structures, campgrounds or headquarters' areas. A duffer-type, egg-type, or similarly designed foothold trap for raccoon may be used within the exempted area only by written permission by the designated department representative.

8.3 Beaver and otter trapping closed areas, unlawful acts.

Sec. 8.3. Unless specified otherwise in this section, a person shall not take otter in the Seney national wildlife refuge in Schoolcraft county; contact Seney national wildlife refuge on possible limited beaver trapping.

Issued this 6th day of June, 2008.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Keith J. Charters, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director