



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES  
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: April 14, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

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

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. In addition to the normal trapper safety regulations, it is recommended 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. This closure was initiated to protect beaver and otter potentially increase populations through dispersal to tributaries of both rivers. 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. It is assumed that beaver populations followed the same pattern which has been further supported through conversations with local trappers and field

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biologists. 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 is being submitted for information and consideration. 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