



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: April 6, 2009

TO: Rebecca A. Humphries, Director
INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission
SUBJECT: Michigan Bear Management Plan - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (Department) to plan and conduct wildlife management within Michigan.

Discussion and Background:

The most recent Michigan bear plan was developed in 1986. Since that time, bear population size and distribution have expanded, understanding of bear biology has improved, regulations have changed, and social issues have increased in quantity and relevance. The Department has revised its bear plan to address these changes.

The new *Michigan Bear Management Plan*, which may be found on the Department's website at <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370---,00.html>, reflects: 1) extensive review of relevant scientific literature; 2) input received during comment periods and bear-focused public meetings; and 3) the recommendations of the Michigan Bear Consultation Team, an 18-member committee convened by the Department to represent the diverse array of bear-related interests held by Michigan society.

The draft plan outlines four principal goals: 1) maintain a sustainable Michigan bear population; 2) facilitate bear-related benefits; 3) minimize bear-related conflicts; and 4) conduct science-based bear management with socially acceptable methods. To help achieve these goals, the plan identifies strategies to address several issues. Some of these issues include information and education, research, use of hunting to achieve population goals, negative bear-human interactions, and the reduction of user-conflicts.

The public comment period began in January 2009 and closed on March 1, 2009. Many citizens took advantage of this opportunity to provide input on the draft plan. Based on the comments received, the Department modified the plan as appropriate.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
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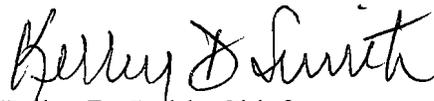
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Recommendation:

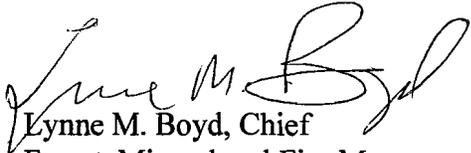
We recommend submission of the Michigan Bear Management Plan to the Natural Resources Commission in May 2009, for information and consideration prior to the Director's final approval.



Russ Mason, Chief
Wildlife Division



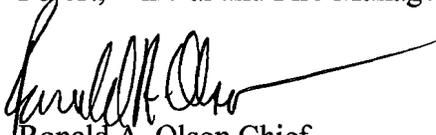
Kelley D. Smith, Chief
Fisheries Division



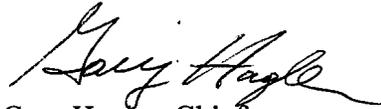
Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management



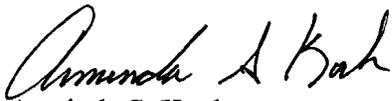
David Freed, Chief
Office of Land Management



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation



Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



Arminda S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director