

Hunter Recruitment and Retention Is a DNR Priority

Michigan, not unlike many other states, has witnessed a sizable decline in the number of hunters over the course of the last decade. As urbanization expands across the landscape, fewer citizens come into that close contact with wildlife as once was the case. By some measure, Michigan ranks close to the bottom in terms of recruiting new hunters to replace those who die or otherwise leave the sport. As our population ages, projections are that we will have even fewer hunters in the future.



Recruiting new hunters into the fraternity will pay huge benefits to all sportsmen and sportswomen, by increasing the funding available to the DNR, not only through increased license revenue, but from additional federal funds that are distributed to the states on the basis of total license sales. Those additional funds can help forestall the need for future license fee increases. And additional hunters will help keep alive what has been a valuable, time-honored tradition in Michigan while helping accomplish the goals of responsible wildlife management.



The DNR, by working with its constituent groups and the Michigan Legislature, has made great strides in breaking down the barriers that often have prevented youngsters and other adults from getting involved in hunting. For instance, the minimum age for youngsters has been lowered from 12 to 10 for small game hunting and from 14 to 12 for big game hunting. In addition, Michigan now offers an apprentice hunting license available for people who were born after Jan. 1, 1960, but have not yet completed hunter education. If a would-be hunter has an opportunity to participate, a lack of a hunter



education certificate is no longer an impediment. Hunters who obtain an apprentice license may hunt for two years before completing hunter education. However, it is still highly recommended that hunters complete hunter education as soon as possible and hunter education instructors have increased the number of classes being offered to make it easier for all to attend.

Although sportsmen and sportswomen have long recruited new hunters through traditional networks of family and friends, there are numerous youngsters who have an interest in enjoying natural resources recreation who do not have the social contacts to expose them to hunting. Consider getting your club involved in a mentoring program through Big Brothers-Big Sisters or 4-H clubs. (For a list of youth mentoring programs, visit www.michigan.gov/mentormichigan.) If you have old hunting equipment or clothing you are no longer using, consider passing it along to the next generation.

Special early deer and waterfowl seasons for youth give adults who accompany those youngsters an additional opportunity for outdoors recreation as well as the enjoyment of passing along a legacy that has enriched their lives.

There's no need to make it difficult. Small game seasons open in September, when the weather is good. There are bountiful small game populations that can provide quality outdoor recreation as well as fine table fare. With almost 26 percent of Michigan land open to public hunting without permission – from state forests to wildlife and recreation areas and even much of the land in state parks – no one is ever more than a 30-minute drive from public hunting land.

Remember the wonder of your first day spent in the field or forest pursuing game or, better yet, bringing home your first squirrel or rabbit or deer for the table? Why not share that experience with someone who might have never had the opportunity before? Chances are you'll enjoy the experience as much as they do. ■



Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) offers outdoor skills workshops to women throughout Michigan.

At a BOW workshop you will have the opportunity to learn about hunting, shooting sports, fishing, camping, canoeing, fly-tying and much more.

For more information: www.michigan.gov/dnr

AD

Four Seasons of Fun

Recreation opportunities plentiful in Michigan's state parks and state forests

State parks and state forests are more than just campgrounds. Anyone can visit to take a walk, cast out a fishing line or go hunting during designated seasons. Day-users of state parks and state forests have access to millions of acres of land in the woods, along lakeshores and riverbanks. These lands provide space and resources to enjoy a variety of outdoor recreation.

The DNR's Web site contains a wealth of information about recreation opportunities that allow you to search by specific features and amenities. Be sure to visit www.michigan.gov/dnrrecreationcamping for more information.

Let's go fishing



When you're on your way to a Michigan State Park or state forest campground this year, don't forget to take your fishing gear along. More than two-thirds of Michigan's 97 state parks and recreation areas feature good fishing opportunities, ranging from undeveloped shore access fishing to parks complete with fishing piers, boat rentals and universally accessible fishing sites.

Or if access to good fishing with lots of space between rustic campsites is what you're looking for, head for a state forest campground. All state forest campgrounds are located on a lake or river, providing excellent access to fishing and boating.

All you need is a fishing rod, tackle, bait and a Michigan fishing license. Youngsters under age 17 can fish for free.

Michigan is a water wonderland

With four Great Lakes touching our borders, more than 11,000 inland lakes, 7,000 miles of canoeable streams, 13,000 miles of trout waters and more than 700 boating access sites, water recreation in Michigan is as



good as it gets. Fishing, boating, canoeing, kayaking, waterskiing and tubing are just a small sampling of what's available.

One of the fastest ways to find access to water recreation is to use the DNR's online Michigan Recreational Boating Information System. Along with fish-stocking reports, maps, local water controls and accessibility features, this resource uses cutting-edge technology to make boating opportunities available for everyone. Check it out at www.mcgi.state.mi.us/MRBIS.

Plenty of hunting opportunities, too

Anyone who has spent much time in Michigan's North



Country understands the important role forests play in maintaining the wildlife diversity that sets Michigan apart from other states. Healthy populations of deer, bear, turkey, grouse and furbearers thrive in our state forests, which provide millions of user-days for hunters each year.

Wildlife also abounds in state parks. More than 200,000 acres of park land are open to hunting during hunting seasons in designated

areas.

Small-game hunters can be licensed at age 10. Special deer hunting and waterfowl hunting opportunities also are available for youth 10-14. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Trails and Pathways

Hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, off-road trail riding, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling are among the options available on a state forest pathway or a state park trail. Mushroom hunting, berry picking and wildlife viewing are added attractions along trails and pathways.

Camping

Michigan's network of rustic state forest campgrounds in the northern Lower and Upper Peninsulas rely on a self-registration system and sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.



The campgrounds at Michigan State Parks and Recreation Areas are more developed and draw more visitors. Although there are a handful of rustic camping options, most state parks offer modern and semi-

modern camping amenities with electric hookups at most sites and toilet/shower buildings.

Thank you for visiting Michigan's state parks and state forests. All fees collected from camping and motor vehicle permits are returned to the state park and state forest systems so the DNR can continue to offer you quality recreation opportunities.



Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors
www.michigan.gov/dnr

Michigan's nongame wildlife needs your support!

NEW 2008-09 Living Resources Patch!



(The patch is being created from this image.) Purchasing a patch, like this 2008-09 Copper-bellied Water Snake Patch, places your dollars directly into the Nongame Wildlife Fund. There are patches from previous years listed below.

These beautiful prints can be purchased for \$15. To see images of these and other prints, please go to www.michigan.gov/michiganestore. All proceeds go to the Nongame Wildlife Fund.



Peregrine Falcons



Loons

Additional items (pocket guides, mugs, gift cards and more) for sale at www.michigan.gov/michiganestore

SEND ORDER TO: (Please print clearly) Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

ADDRESS:

CITY, STATE, ZIP:

TELEPHONE: (with area code)

Patch Order Form: **Patches \$5 each**
(Please indicate quantity)

Copper-bellied Water Snake (NEW)	_____
Piping Plover	_____
Dwarf Lake Iris	_____
Green Darner	_____
Pileated Woodpecker	_____
Rainbow Darter	_____
Karner Blue Butterfly	_____
Piping Plover/Tansy	_____
Marbled Salamander	_____
Freshwater Mussels	_____
Bald Eagle	_____
Common Tern	_____

Sub Total:

Prints Order Form: **Prints \$15 each**
(Please indicate quantity)

Pine Marten	_____
Gray Wolves	_____
Trumpeter Swan	_____
Eastern Bluebird	_____
Common Loons	_____
Piping Plover	_____
Peregrine Falcons	_____
Great Blue Heron	_____
Sandhill Crane	_____
Whistling Swan	_____

Sub Total:

Please mail completed form with check payable to "State of Michigan" to:

Mich. Dept. of Natural Resources
PO Box 30451
Lansing, MI 98909-7951

Michigan Sales Tax
(Multiply Subtotals by 6% (.06))

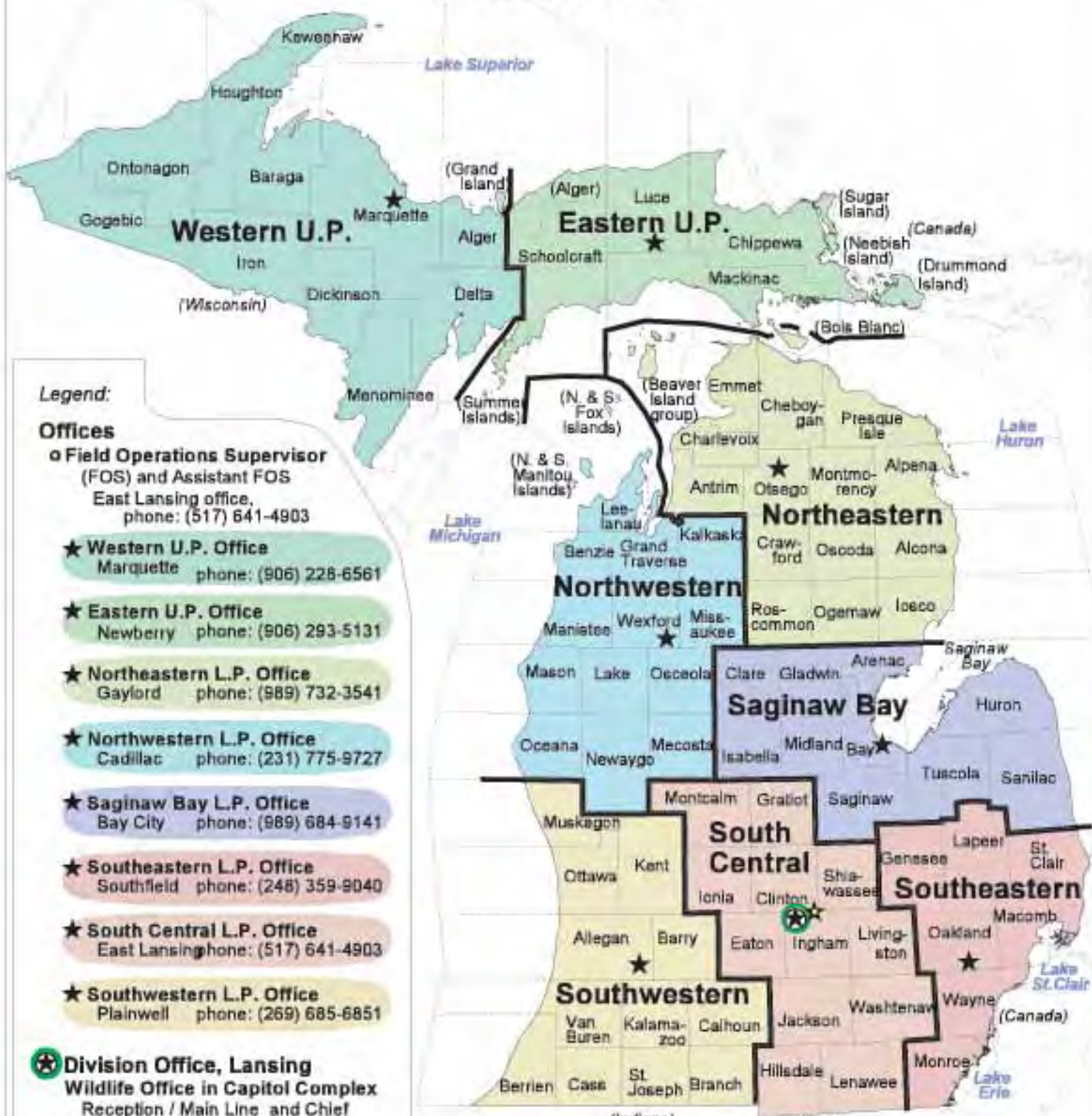
Shipping and Handling -- for orders
\$0 - \$20 add \$2.50, \$20.01 - \$40
add \$5, \$40.01 and up add \$6.

Grand Total

FOR DNR CASHIER'S USE ONLY - DO NOT
USE SPACE BELOW



Wildlife Management Unit Offices

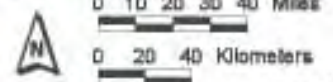


Legend:

Offices

- o **Field Operations Supervisor (FOS) and Assistant FOS**
East Lansing office, phone: (517) 641-4903
- ★ **Western U.P. Office**
Marquette phone: (906) 228-6561
- ★ **Eastern U.P. Office**
Newberry phone: (906) 293-5131
- ★ **Northeastern L.P. Office**
Gaylord phone: (989) 732-3541
- ★ **Northwestern L.P. Office**
Cadillac phone: (231) 775-9727
- ★ **Saginaw Bay L.P. Office**
Bay City phone: (989) 684-9141
- ★ **Southeastern L.P. Office**
Southfield phone: (248) 359-9040
- ★ **South Central L.P. Office**
East Lansing phone: (517) 641-4903
- ★ **Southwestern L.P. Office**
Plainwell phone: (269) 685-6851
- ★ **Division Office, Lansing**
Wildlife Office in Capitol Complex
Reception / Main Line and Chief
phone: (517) 373-1263
Wildlife Disease Laboratory
is in East Lansing
phone: (517) 336-5030

WMU Boundary County Boundary Coastline



(2008 July -MLS)

Thank you for purchasing a 2008 Michigan hunting or fur harvester license

Michigan is among the top states in the nation in almost every hunting category with more than 800,000 licensed hunters contributing \$2 billion annually to our economy.

The mission of the DNR Wildlife Division is to enhance, restore and conserve the state's wildlife resources, natural communities, and ecosystems for the benefit of Michigan's citizens, visitors and future generations.

Your purchase of a hunting or fur harvester license supports the work of department employees who manage and protect Michigan's wildlife habitat. We encourage you to keep hunting and trapping, and to share your experience with others. In doing so, you can do your part to keep our state's wildlife heritage alive for future generations.

Need information?

The Operations Service Centers listed below are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Or visit our Web site at: www.michigan.gov/dnr RAP (Report All Poaching) 800-292-7800

Baraga
427 US-41 North
Baraga, MI 49908
906-353-6651

Bay City
503 N. Euclid Ave., Suite
1
Bay City, MI 48706
989-684-9141

Cadillac
8015 Mackinaw Trail
Cadillac, MI 49601
231-775-9727

Gaylord
1732 W. M-32
Gaylord, MI 49735
989-732-3541

Southfield
26000 W. Eight Mile Rd.
Southfield, MI 48034
248-359-9040

Marquette
1990 US-41 South
Marquette, MI 49855
906-228-6561

Newberry
5100 M-123
Newberry, MI 49868
906-293-5131

Plainwell
621 N. 10th St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
269-685-6851

Roscommon
I-75 & M-18 South,
8717 N. Roscommon
Rd.
Roscommon, MI 48653
989-275-5151

Rose Lake*
8562 E. Stoll Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823
517-641-4903
*This is a field office

NOTICE: This brochure is not a legal notice or a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a condensed guide issued for hunters' convenience. Copies of wildlife conservation orders can be obtained from our Web site, www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Wildlife Restoration Program



The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 created a funding mechanism for state wildlife agencies to restore and manage their wildlife resources. A federal excise tax on firearms and ammunition, bows and arrows is collected by the Internal Revenue Service and apportioned to eligible states through a formula based on the number of licensed hunters and the size of each state. Eligible states are those that have passed laws preventing the use of hunting license fees for any purpose other than managing the states' wildlife. The federal excise tax along with hunter license fees are used to acquire lands, protect, restore and manage wildlife habitats, manage wildlife populations, conduct wildlife research, survey and monitor wildlife populations, develop, operate and maintain hunter access, develop, operate and maintain facilities and infrastructure necessary to manage wildlife and to plan for the management of wildlife resources.

Additionally, a specific portion of the federal excise tax is dedicated for hunter education, developing and managing shooting ranges. Since its inception in 1937, Michigan's share of the Wildlife Restoration Funds has reached almost \$150 million.

Encourage your kids to take the pledge

My Outdoor Pledge

"I pledge to spend at least 1 hour everyday outside, enjoying, exploring and learning nature's lessons."

www.michigan.gov/nochildleftinside

I believe that as I grow -
nature's lessons are good to know.
TV shows might make me swear,
but not as well as being there.
I'll get outdoors, explore and listen,
to hear chirps and croaks will be my mission.
With each new plant or critter I see -
I learn the world is more than me.
I pledge to start, an hour each day,
and live my life a whole new way.

Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors

AD

AD

AD

AD

AD