



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



RODNEY A. STOKES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: January 17, 2012
RESUBMITTED: February 13, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Order to Regulate Use of Lapeer State Game Area, Lapeer County
Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 1 of 2012
FOR ACTION

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director to issue orders to implement land use rules.

Discussion and Background:

The purpose of this land use order is to regulate access within the Lapeer State Game Area (SGA) and to take proactive steps to address significant and recurrent problems associated with target shooting within the Lapeer SGA.

Unlawful Entry

This proposed land use order recommends limiting entry to certain areas of the Lapeer SGA, except from July 1 to August 31 and from December 15 to March 1 for the purpose of fishing or with written permission from the department. Limited entry aligns with the original landowner's request to preserve the natural character of the area and is consistent with the area's current use. Nearby residents have expressed concern regarding the disturbance of waterfowl and migratory bird habitat with increased recreational use.

Target Shooting

The Lapeer SGA is a popular destination for target shooters. Some portions of the SGA are used extensively for this purpose and the result of that intensive use is an unmanageable litter problem. Televisions, computers, refrigerators, glass, and many other items are used for target practice and the debris left behind makes these areas look more like a landfill than a game area. Keeping them clean is an impossible yet time-consuming task for Wildlife and Law Enforcement Division staff. Hundreds of hours each year are spent by Department employees responding to and resolving complaints and misuse of the area by target shooters.

Target shooting is a legitimate use of the game areas and one that should be allowed to continue. This order will continue to allow target shooting in the Lapeer SGA, however, will stipulate that paper targets must be used. This provision will be clear for the public and allow for more

consistent enforcement efforts for Law Enforcement Division. This order also regulates the legal hours for target shooting and discharging a firearm in the SGA.

Recommendation:

This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item appeared on the Department's January 2012 calendar and may be eligible for approval on March 8, 2012.

Bill O'Neill, Acting Chief
Forest Management Division

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

James Dexter, Acting Chief
Fisheries Division

Kelley D. Smith, Ph.D.
Acting Natural Resources Deputy

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

Rodney A. Stokes, Director

Date

LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR

Amendment No. 1 of 2012

By authority conferred on the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by Section 504 of the Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.504, and in accordance with R 299.921 to R 299.933 , the Director of the Department of Natural Resources orders the following:

3.31 Lapeer state game area, Lapeer county, prohibited conduct.

Order 3.31 A person shall not do any of the following within the Lapeer SGA, Lapeer county:

- (1) Target shoot at any object other than a paper target.
- (2) Discharge a firearm except during legal hunting hours or engage in target shooting from one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.
- (3) Except from July 1 to August 31 and from December 15 to March 1 for the purpose of fishing or with written permission from the department, enter upon the following lands:
 - (a) Section 13, T08N, R10E lying south of Vernor road and east of Five lakes road.
 - (b) Section 24, T08N, R10E, lying east of Five lakes road.
 - (c) Section 18, T08N, R11E lying south of Vernor road, except the E1/2 of the SE1/4.
 - (d) Section 19, T08N, R11E, except the NE1/4 of the NE1/4.

This amended order shall be posted on or after 9th day of March, 2012.

Issued on this 8th day of March, 2012.

Rodney A. Stokes
Director