



Important Facts You Should Know

- DNR is directly responsible for managing 4.5 million acres -- 12% of Michigan's land mass.
- DNR has conservation responsibilities for fish and wildlife resources across the state's 37 million acres, including more than 11,000 inland lakes and 36,000 of rivers and streams, and 38,575 square miles of the Great Lakes.
- One of every six Michigan residents hunt or fish.
- Recreation related to fish and wildlife conservation is vital to Michigan's economy, directly supporting more than 33,000 jobs, and contributing more than \$3 billion to our economy.
- Over 76% of the DNR's budget comes from state restricted funds, one of which is the Game and Fish Protection Fund (hunting and fishing license fees). That fund provides nearly one-third of that total.
- DNR receives little money from general tax dollars (General Fund). In fact, out of the DNR's total budget, only 9% comes from the General Fund -- and half of that 9% goes to local governments, with **only the remaining 4.5% to conservation.**
- In contrast, just 10 years ago, 23.3% of DNR's budget came from the General Fund.
- Over the past 20 years, the number of anglers has dropped 21.7%, from 1,483,910 to 1,161,432 and the number of hunters has dropped 14.3%, from 925,332 to 789,244.
- Decreases in license sales and increased management responsibilities, combined with continual inflationary costs in the state budget, have caused a rapid depletion of the Game and Fish Protection Fund and will jeopardize DNR's ability to protect and manage the natural resources of our state.
- For example, the number of conservation officers in the field has declined from 195 in 1995 to 140 in 2006. Funding cuts also have reduced patrol hours despite the fact that the number of calls to the Report All Poaching hotline increased by more than 21% over the same period.
- DNR has initiated \$8 million in program reductions over the past three years.
- Since 1996, the number of filled positions in the DNR has declined from 1,620 to 1,477.
- Last time hunting, trapping and fishing license fees were increased by Legislature was in 1996.
- If simply adjusted for inflation in 2006-07 dollars, the \$7.50 fee hunters paid for a deer license in 1971 should be \$36.03 today, more than \$21 over the current fee.
- Proposal 1, approved by voters in November, **DOES NOT** provide any additional funding for the DNR. It only protects key DNR restricted funds, including the Game and Fish Protection Fund, from being used by the Legislature for other purposes.