# 2026 Upper Peninsula
# Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative
# Michigan Department of Natural Resources — Wildlife Division
# Executive Summary Handout

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, is pleased to announce that the 2026 Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative (DHIPI) grant program is again offered to the Upper Peninsula. This is a competitive grant, and proposals will be evaluated by the Selection Committee to award funds. The funding for the program comes from the Deer Range Improvement Program (DRIP) fund, generated from statewide deer hunting license fees.

New for 2026, the total DHIPI program budget has increased to $200,000. The maximum and minimum grant requests have also increased respectively to a maximum of $25,000 and a minimum of $5,000. Required match remains at 25%. Further, applicants can now bundle multiple project proposals under one application instead of applying separately for each proposal, provided they stay below the maximum grant value. Applicants seeking maximum grant values can also request a two-year grant window to implement more complex projects. Applicants seeking a two-year window will need to explain their rationale for consideration, approval of the two-year grant implementation window is not automatic.

Over the past 17 years Wildlife Division has invested over $1,295,000.00 of license dollars on Upper Peninsula deer habitat improvements through the DHIPI program. Thousands of acres of deer habitat have benefited from over 162 projects in nearly all Upper Peninsula counties. Partners have contributed nearly $950,000 dollars in matching funds, helping to expand the benefits for wildlife and local communities.

The request for proposals is open from Monday, January 26, 2026, and closes Friday, March 6, 2026. There are three primary initiative goals all proposals must address: (1) to produce tangible deer habitat improvements. (2) to promote relationships between the DNR, sportsperson's organizations, and other partners. (3) to showcase these projects to the public.

While it is the responsibility of interested organizations to craft project proposals, they are encouraged to contact their local wildlife biologist to help develop suitable proposals. Attached you will find all DHIPI program information, including the application. Complete grant materials, including eligibility rules and application, are also available online at www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants following the link to the Deer.Habitat.Improvement. Partnership.Initiative.

Completed applications must be postmarked by or received electronically by close of Business Friday, March 6, 2026, and addressed to: Bill Scullon, Field Operations Manager, Norway DNR Field Office, 520 West US Hwy 2, Norway MI 49870. Successful applicants will be notified by Friday, March 27, 2026. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call (906) 250-6781, fax (906) 563-5802 or email scullonh@michigan.gov.