



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION POLICY

4104 – Bounties (Revised: 09/12/2013)

Supersedes:

No. 4104 Bounties – dated January 1, 1977

Issue/Purpose:

Department bounties on predators were repealed in 1960 (wolves), 1965 (bobcats and fox), and 1975 (coyotes). Animal populations in Michigan fluctuate independently of bounty payments and therefore bounties have been found to be ineffective in increasing small game population numbers.

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance and direction to the NRC on this matter.

Definitions:

bounty – a reward, premium or subsidy especially when offered or given by a government, as payment to encourage the destruction of noxious animals (Webster)

Policy:

- The NRC is opposed to the payment of bounties on predatory animals because there is no cause and effect relationship for predators versus prey when using a bounty system. In addition, bounty systems are costly and inefficient.
- The NRC shall continue to prohibit bounties or the development of a bounty system.
- The NRC shall use sound scientific methods to control predator populations instead of using a bounty system.
- The NRC shall support Department efforts, where possible, to educate and inform the public on the negative effects of bounty systems.

Related Reference:

Michigan DNR Wildlife Division Information Circular No. 162 – Revised May 1976, Michigan Bounty System.

4104 – Bounties is hereby approved.

J.R. Richardson, Chair

Effective Date