

# The Power of Public Lands

Your resources. Our commitment. Michigan's legacy.

**Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Public Land Strategy Appendices 2021-2027**



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## **Introduction**

The public land strategy provides a framework for the conservation and care of DNR-managed public lands to ensure their best use for the benefit of Michigan residents, visitors and the state's natural and cultural resources.

To fully capture how public lands are used, acquired and sold, supplemental information – beyond what can be contained in a concise strategic document – is necessary. The documents in these appendices provide additional resources such as definitions, maps, charts, an overview of the engagement process and how the results of public engagement helped to shape the land strategy, and additional explanation regarding goals and strategies.

The updated public land strategy highlights the value of a robust public land base. The following documents provide the background into the why and how the final plan was developed.

## Appendix A: Definitions

**Carbon credits** – A carbon offset, sometimes called a carbon credit, refers to paying someone else to reduce their carbon emissions or increase their carbon sequestration in order to offset your own carbon emissions. Companies that produce carbon emissions during their regular operations can offset this negative impact to the environment by purchasing carbon credits from entities that reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses. One carbon credit equals one metric ton of carbon dioxide emission. In this case, state forests absorb carbon as trees grow, locking it into wood and durable forest products manufactured from harvesting trees.

**Climate change** – A change in the state of the climate that can be identified (for example, by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer ([Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#)).

**Cultural identity** – A sense of belonging based on one’s ancestry, cultural heritage, values, traditions, rituals, and often language and religion.

**Cultural resources** – Including historic resources, relate to the ideas, customs, and social behavior of a society and may include tangible remains of past human activity. Buildings, structures, prehistoric sites, historic or prehistoric objects, rock inscription, earthworks, canals, or landscapes are examples of cultural resources.

**Dispersed recreation** – Opportunities such as hunting, backpacking, wildlife viewing, camping, mushroom hunting, bird watching and other backcountry recreation experiences.

**Diverse recreation experiences** – Offering a variety of types of recreation experiences to attract different user groups.

**Dual third-party forest certification** – A means for evaluating and confirming the quality of forest management against sets of agreed-upon standards. It involves tracking and labeling wood-based and non-timber forest products and assuring consumers that these products come from responsibly managed sources. The Forest Stewardship Council® and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® have standards to help ensure forests are managed responsibly for present and future generations. Both standards require continuous improvement in forest management while protecting the environment and providing social and economic benefits.

**Metallic minerals** – All metallic minerals, metallic mineral products, ores, and concentrates, and all nonmetallic products which result from processing, smelting, or refining metallic minerals and are subsequently sold or have commercial value as

defined by the Michigan Administrative Code R299.401. Examples include, but are not limited to, aluminum, iron and zinc.

**Non-metallic minerals** – All nonmetallic minerals, nonmetallic mineral products, or other naturally occurring earth materials of a nonmetallic and or/organic origin as defined by the Michigan Administrative Code R299.4021. Examples include, but are not limited to, limestone, mica and shale.

**Placemaking** – An effort that leverages a location’s unique character, heritage and assets in order to strengthen community relationships and cohesion, as well as the connections between people and that place.

**Project boundary** – Geographic lines that help define the state’s public lands acquisition and disposal strategy (land strategy). These boundaries contain a majority of state ownership, as well as privately owned lands that, should they ever become available for sale, would be a priority for the DNR to pursue acquisition. The project boundaries around state forests, game and wildlife areas, and parks and recreation areas. The DNR also manages lands outside of these project boundaries such as boating access sites, trails, and DNR facilities such as fish hatcheries.

**Specific conservation value** – Sites or natural habitats that contain significant biological, ecological, social or cultural values. These sites may include ecological reference areas, high conservation value areas, natural communities, species of special concern, threatened or endangered species, natural areas, or ecologically sensitive areas.

**Utility scale solar energy** – Utility-scale renewable energy on DNR-managed public lands refers to large-scale solar photovoltaic power plants, at a scale large enough to be classified as “utility-scale,” ranging from 1 megawatt (MW) to 1000 MW. These are usually ground-mounted solar power plants that export all power generated to the grid.

## Appendix B: Public Act 240 of 2018

Act No. 240  
Public Acts of 2018  
Approved by the Governor  
June 27, 2018  
Filed with the Secretary of State  
June 27, 2018  
EFFECTIVE DATE: September 25, 2018

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
99TH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018**

Introduced by Reps. Howell, LaFave, VanderWall, Bellino, Rendon, Maturen and Glenn

# **ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4475**

AN ACT to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "An act to protect the environment and natural resources of the state; to codify, revise, consolidate, and classify laws relating to the environment and natural resources of the state; to regulate the discharge of certain substances into the environment; to regulate the use of certain lands, waters, and other natural resources of the state; to protect the people's right to hunt and fish; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state and local agencies and officials; to provide for certain charges, fees, assessments, and donations; to provide certain appropriations; to prescribe penalties and provide remedies; and to repeal acts and parts of acts," by amending sections 301, 503, 2106, 2133, and 72118 (MCL 324.301, 324.503, 324.2106, 324.2133, and 324.72118), section 301 as amended by 2004 PA 587, section 503 as amended by 2012 PA 294, sections 2106 and 2133 as added by 1995 PA 60, and section 72118 as added by 2016 PA 288, and by adding subpart 17 to part 21.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

Sec. 301. Except as otherwise defined in this act, as used in this act:

- (a) "Commission" means the commission of natural resources.
- (b) "Department" means the director of the department of natural resources or his or her designee to whom the director delegates a power or duty by written instrument.
- (c) "Department of natural resources" means the principal state department created in section 501.
- (d) "Director" means the director of the department of natural resources.
- (e) "Local unit of government" or "local unit" means a municipality or county.
- (f) "Michigan conservation and recreation legacy fund" means the Michigan conservation and recreation legacy fund established in section 40 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963 and provided for in section 2002.
- (g) "Municipality" means a city, village, or township.
- (h) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, governmental entity, or other legal entity.
- (i) "Public domain" means all land owned by this state or land deeded to this state under state law.
- (j) "Rule" means a rule promulgated pursuant to the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328.

Sec. 503. (1) The department shall protect and conserve the natural resources of this state; provide and develop facilities for outdoor recreation; prevent the destruction of timber and other forest growth by fire or otherwise; promote

the reforestation of forestlands belonging to this state; prevent and guard against the pollution of lakes and streams within this state and enforce all laws provided for that purpose with all authority granted by law; and foster and encourage the protection and propagation of game and fish. Before issuing an order or promulgating a rule under this act that will designate or classify land managed by the department for any purpose, the department shall consider, in addition to any other matters required by law, all of the following:

(a) Providing for access to and use of the public land for recreation and tourism.

(b) The existence of or potential for natural resources-based industries, including forest management, mining, or oil and gas development on the public land.

(c) The potential impact of the designation or classification on private property in the immediate vicinity.

(2) The department has the power and jurisdiction over the management, control, and disposition of all land under the public domain, except for those lands under the public domain that are managed by other state agencies to carry out their assigned duties and responsibilities. On behalf of the people of this state, the department may accept gifts and grants of land and other property and may buy, sell, exchange, or condemn land and other property, for any of the purposes of this part.

(3) If any payment under subpart 13 or 14 of part 21 or section 51106 for land located north of the Mason-Arenac line is not made in full and on time during a fiscal year, then, until the end of that fiscal year, the department shall not purchase surface rights to land located north of the Mason-Arenac line unless 1 or both of the following apply:

(a) Full payment was made later during that fiscal year.

(b) The specific acquisition is approved by resolution adopted by the following, as applicable:

(i) If the land is located in a single township, the township board.

(ii) If the land is located in 2 or more townships, the county board of commissioners of the county where the land is located.

(4) For the purposes of subsections (3) and (9), respectively, land in which the department acquires or owns surface rights does not include any of the following:

(a) Land acquired under an option agreement in effect on the date when the payment described in subsection (3) became due if the acquisition takes place within 120 days after the payment became due.

(b) Land in which the department has a conservation easement.

(c) Land that, before July 2, 2012, was platted under the land division act, 1967 PA 288, MCL 560.101 to 560.293, or a predecessor act and acquired by the department.

(d) Any of the following if acquired on or after July 2, 2012:

(i) Land with an area of not more than 80 acres, or a right-of-way, for accessing other land owned by the department or for accessing the waters of the state as defined in section 3101.

(ii) Land for a trail, subject to all of the following:

(A) If the traveled portion of the proposed trail is located within an abandoned railroad right-of-way, the land excluded is limited to the abandoned railroad right-of-way.

(B) If the traveled portion of the proposed trail is located in a utility easement, the land excluded is limited to the utility easement.

(C) If sub-subparagraphs (A) and (B) do not apply, the land excluded is limited to the traveled portion of the proposed trail and contiguous land. For the purposes of the exclusion, the area of the contiguous land shall not exceed the product of 100 feet multiplied by the length of the proposed trail in feet.

(iii) Land that, on July 2, 2012 was commercial forestland as defined in section 51101 if the land continues to be used in a manner consistent with part 511.

(iv) Land acquired by the department by gift, including the gift of funds specifically dedicated to land acquisition.

(v) Land acquired by the department through litigation.

(5) The department shall maintain a record of land as described in subsection (4)(a) to (d). The record shall include the location, acreage, date of acquisition, and use of the land.

(6) By October 1, 2014, the department shall develop a written strategic plan to guide the acquisition and disposition of state lands managed by the department, submit the plan to the relevant legislative committees, and post the plan on the department's website. In developing the plan, the department shall solicit input from the public and local units of government.

(7) The strategic plan shall do all of the following:

(a) Divide this state into regions.

(b) Identify lands managed by the department in each region.



(c) Set forth for each region measurable strategic performance goals with respect to all of the following for land managed by the department:

- (i) Maximizing availability of points of access to the land and to bodies of water on or adjacent to the land.
- (ii) Maximizing outdoor recreation opportunities.
- (iii) Forests.
- (iv) Wildlife and fisheries.

(d) To assist in achieving the goals set forth in the strategic plan pursuant to subdivision (c), identify all of the following:

- (i) Land to be acquired.
- (ii) Land to be disposed of.
- (iii) Plans for natural resource management.

(e) To the extent feasible, identify public lands in each region that are not managed by the department but affect the achievement of the goals set forth in the strategic plan pursuant to subdivision (c).

(f) Identify ways that the department can better coordinate the achievement of the goals set forth in the strategic plan pursuant to subdivision (c), recognizing that public lands are subject to multiple uses and both motorized and nonmotorized uses.

(g) Identify critical trail connectors to enhance motorized and nonmotorized natural-resource-dependent outdoor recreation activities for public enjoyment.

(8) The legislature approves the strategic plan entitled "Department of Natural Resources Managed Public Land Strategy" issued by the department and dated July 1, 2013. The department shall implement the most recent legislatively approved strategic plan and shall not change the plan except by a plan update proposed pursuant to subsection (10) and subsequently approved by the legislature.

(9) The department shall annually submit to the relevant legislative committees and post and annually update on the department's website all of the following:

(a) A report on the implementation of the plan.

(b) The number of acres of land in which the department owns surface rights north of the Mason-Arenac line, south of the Mason-Arenac line, and in total for this state.

(c) Information on the total number of each of the following:

- (i) Acres of land managed by the department.
- (ii) Acres of state park and state recreation area land.
- (iii) Acres of state game and state waterfowl areas.
- (iv) Acres of land managed by the department and open for public hunting.
- (v) Acres of state-owned mineral rights managed by the department that are under a development lease.
- (vi) Acres of state forestland.
- (vii) Public boating access sites managed by the department.
- (viii) Miles of motorized trails managed by the department.
- (ix) Miles of nonmotorized trails managed by the department.

(10) For legislative consideration and approval, as provided in subsection (8), by July 1, 2021, and every 6 years thereafter, the department shall propose an update to the strategic plan, submit the proposed updated plan to the relevant legislative committees, and post the proposed updated plan on the department's website. At least 60 days before posting the proposed updated plan, the department shall prepare, submit to the relevant legislative committees, and post on the department's website a report that covers all of the following and includes department contact information for persons who wish to comment on the report:

- (a) Progress toward the goals set forth in the strategic plan pursuant to subsection (7)(c).
- (b) Any proposed changes to the goals, including the rationale for the changes.
- (c) The department's engagement and collaboration with local units of government.

(11) Subject to subsection (12), if land owned by this state and managed by the department, land owned by the federal government, and land that is commercial forestland as defined in section 51101 constitute 40% or more of the land in a county, the department shall not acquire land in that county if, not more than 60 days after the department sent the notice of the proposed acquisition to the board under section 2165, the department receives a copy of a resolution rejecting the proposed acquisition adopted by the following, as applicable:

- (a) If the land is located in a single township, the township board.
- (b) If the land is located in 2 or more townships, the county board of commissioners.

(12) Subsection (11) does not apply to land described in subsection (4)(d).

(13) The department may accept funds, money, or grants for development of salmon and steelhead trout fishing in this state from the government of the United States, or any of its departments or agencies, pursuant to the anadromous fish conservation act, 16 USC 757a to 757f, and may use this money in accordance with the terms and provisions of that act. However, the acceptance and use of federal funds does not commit state funds and does not place an obligation upon the legislature to continue the purposes for which the funds are made available.

(14) The department may appoint persons to serve as volunteers to assist the department in meeting its responsibilities as provided in this part. Subject to the direction of the department, a volunteer may use equipment and machinery necessary for the volunteer service, including, but not limited to, equipment and machinery to improve wildlife habitat on state game areas.

(15) The department may lease lands owned or controlled by the department or may grant concessions on lands owned or controlled by the department to any person for any purpose that the department determines to be necessary to implement this part. The department shall grant each concession for a term of not more than 7 years based on extension, renegotiation, or competitive bidding. However, if the department determines that a concession requires a capital investment in which reasonable financing or amortization necessitates a longer term, the department may grant a concession for up to a 15-year term. A concession granted under this subsection shall require, unless the department authorizes otherwise, that all buildings and equipment be removed at the end of the concession's term. Any lease entered into under this subsection shall limit the purposes for which the leased land is to be used and shall authorize the department to terminate the lease upon a finding that the land is being used for purposes other than those permitted in the lease. Unless otherwise provided by law, money received from a lease or a concession of tax reverted land shall be credited to the fund providing financial support for the management of the leased land. Money received from a lease of any other land shall be credited to the fund from which the land was purchased. However, money received from program-related leases on these lands shall be credited to the fund providing financial support for the management of the leased lands. For land managed by the forest management division of the department, that fund is either the forest development fund established pursuant to section 50507 or the forest recreation account of the Michigan conservation and recreation legacy fund provided for in section 2005. For land managed by the wildlife or fisheries division of the department, that fund is the game and fish protection account of the Michigan conservation and recreation legacy fund provided for in section 2010.

(16) When the department sells land, the deed may reserve all mineral, coal, oil, and gas rights to this state only if the land is in production or is leased or permitted for production, or if the department determines that the land has unusual or sensitive environmental features or that it is in the best interest of this state to reserve those rights as determined by commission policy. However, the department shall not reserve the rights to sand, gravel, clay, or other nonmetallic minerals. When the department sells land that contains subsurface rights, the department shall include a deed restriction that restricts the subsurface rights from being severed from the surface rights in the future. If the landowner severs the subsurface rights from the surface rights, the subsurface rights revert to this state. The deed may reserve to this state the right of ingress and egress over and across land along watercourses and streams. Whenever an exchange of land is made with the United States government, a corporation, or an individual for the purpose of consolidating the state forest reserves, the department may issue deeds without reserving to this state the mineral, coal, oil, and gas rights and the rights of ingress and egress. The department may sell the limestone, sand, gravel, or other nonmetallic minerals. However, the department shall not sell a mineral or nonmetallic mineral right if the sale would violate part 353, part 637, or any other provision of law. The department may sell all reserved mineral, coal, oil, and gas rights to such lands upon terms and conditions as the department considers proper and may sell oil and gas rights as provided in part 610. The owner of those lands as shown by the records shall be given priority in case the department authorizes any sale of those lands, and, unless the landowner waives that priority, the department shall not sell such rights to any other person. For the purpose of this section, mineral rights do not include rights to sand, gravel, clay, or other nonmetallic minerals.

(17) The department may enter into contracts for the sale of the economic share of royalty interests it holds in hydrocarbons produced from devonian or antrim shale qualifying for the nonconventional source production credit determined under section 45k of the internal revenue code of 1986, 26 USC 45k. However, in entering into these contracts, the department shall ensure that revenues to the natural resources trust fund under these contracts are not less than the revenues the natural resources trust fund would have received if the contracts were not entered into. The sale of the economic share of royalty interests under this subsection may occur under contractual terms and conditions considered appropriate by the department and as approved by the state administrative board. Funds received from the sale of the economic share of royalty interests under this subsection shall be transmitted to the state treasurer for deposit in the state treasury as follows:

(a) Net proceeds allocable to the nonconventional source production credit determined under section 45k of the internal revenue code of 1986, 26 USC 45k, under this subsection shall be credited to the environmental protection fund created in section 503a.

(b) Proceeds related to the production of oil or gas from devonian or antrim shale shall be credited to the natural resources trust fund or other applicable fund as provided by law.

(18) As used in this section:

(a) "Concession" means an agreement between the department and a person under terms and conditions as specified by the department to provide services or recreational opportunities for public use.

(b) "Lease" means a conveyance by the department to a person of a portion of this state's interest in land under specific terms and for valuable consideration, thereby granting to the lessee the possession of that portion conveyed during the period stipulated.

(c) "Mason-Arenac line" means the line formed by the north boundaries of Mason, Lake, Osceola, Clare, Gladwin, and Arenac Counties.

(d) "Natural resources trust fund" means the Michigan natural resources trust fund established in section 35 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963 and provided for in section 1902.

(e) "Net proceeds" means the total receipts received from the sale of royalty interests under subsection (17) less costs related to the sale. Costs may include, but are not limited to, legal, financial advisory, geological or reserve studies, and accounting services.

(f) "Relevant legislative committees" means the senate and house committees with primary responsibility for natural resources and outdoor recreation and the corresponding appropriation subcommittees.

(g) "Strategic plan" or "plan" means the plan developed under subsection (6), as updated under subsection (10), if applicable.

Sec. 2106. (1) The department shall maintain on its website and make available in writing to persons seeking to purchase land from, sell land to, or exchange land with the department under this part information about relevant requirements and procedures under this part and section 503(11) and (12).

(2) If it is in the interests of this state to exchange any of the lands described in section 2104 for lands of an equal area or of approximately equal value belonging to private individuals, the department shall maintain a description of the lands to be conveyed and a description of the lands belonging to individuals to be deeded to this state.

(3) Before any of the lands are deeded to an individual as provided in this subpart, the person or persons owning any lands to be deeded to this state shall execute a conveyance of those lands to this state. The department shall accept delivery of the deed. The attorney general shall examine the title to the lands deeded to this state and certify to the department whether or not the conveyance is sufficient to vest in this state a good and sufficient title to the land free from any liens or encumbrances. If the attorney general certifies that the deed vests in this state a good and sufficient title to the deeded lands free from any liens or encumbrances, the department shall within 30 days execute a deed to the individual of the lands to be conveyed by this state.

Sec. 2133. (1) Upon request, the department shall furnish a list of surplus lands being offered for sale at public auction. The surplus land sale list shall include all of the following:

- (a) The date, time, and place of sale.
- (b) Descriptions of surplus lands being offered.
- (c) The conditions of sale.

(2) Upon request, the department shall furnish a list of surplus lands being offered in a negotiated sale. The surplus land negotiated sale list shall include both of the following:

- (a) The date, time, and place that the department will meet to authorize the sale.
- (b) Descriptions of surplus lands being offered.

## SUBPART 17

### NOTICE

Sec. 2165. (1) At least 30 days before disposing of, acquiring, leasing, or developing lands that are more than 80 acres in size, the department shall do all of the following:

- (a) Provide notice in writing to the legislative bodies of the local units of government where the land is located.
- (b) Post the notice on its website.
- (c) Publish the notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the land is located.

(2) The notice under subsection (1) shall contain all of the following information:

(a) The acreage, the location by address or by distance and direction from specified roads or highways, and the legal description of the land.

(b) The proposed timing of the land transaction.

(c) The proposed use for the land.

(d) The opportunity for the legislative body of a local unit of government where the land is located, or 5 or more residents of or owners of land in the county where the land is located, to request a general public meeting on the proposed transaction and the date by which the request must be received by the department under subsection (3).

(e) A website address where additional information on the proposed transaction can be found.

(f) For persons who wish to comment on or ask questions about the proposed transaction, the name, telephone number, electronic mail address, and mailing address of a department contact person.

(g) For the website notice, the following additional information:

(i) For the acquisition, lease from another person, or development of land, the fund source that will be used.

(ii) For the acquisition of land, the estimated annual payments in lieu of taxes.

(iii) The effect the proposal is expected to have on achieving the strategic performance goals set forth in the strategic plan pursuant to section 503(7).

(3) If the legislative body of a local unit of government where the land is located or 5 or more residents of or owners of land in the county where the land is located request a general public meeting and the department receives the necessary request or requests within 15 days after providing notice under subsection (1), the department shall meet with the general public in the county where the land is located to discuss the proposed disposition, acquisition, lease, or development. The department shall send a representative to the meeting who is familiar with the proposal.

(4) The department shall provide notice of a meeting under subsection (3) by all of the following means:

(a) Written notice to the legislative body of each local unit of government where the land is located.

(b) Written notice to each resident or owner of land that requested the meeting under subsection (3).

(c) Posting of the notice on the department's website.

(5) The department shall provide an opportunity for representatives of all local units of government where the land is located to meet in person with a department representative who is familiar with the proposed disposition, acquisition, lease, or development to discuss the proposal.

(6) Subsections (1) to (5) do not apply to either of the following:

(a) A lease with a term of 10 years or less.

(b) A lease limited to exploration for and production of oil and gas.

(7) As used in this section:

(a) "Development" means development that would significantly change or impact the current use of the land subject to development. "Developing" has a corresponding meaning. The removal of a berm, gate, or other human-made barrier under section 504 is not development.

(b) "Newspaper" means that term as defined in section 1461 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.1461.

Sec. 72118. (1) The department shall make a comprehensive inventory of forest roads that are state roads. The department shall divide the state into 5 regions and complete the inventory in regional phases. The Upper Peninsula shall be a separate region or regions. The department shall inventory the 2 most northerly regions in the Lower Peninsula by December 31, 2017. The department shall inventory the remaining regions by December 31, 2018. The inventory shall meet both of the following requirements:

(a) Identify the location, condition, and development level of the forest roads.

(b) Determine types of motorized and nonmotorized use currently restricted on each forest road segment and the seasons during which those uses are currently restricted.

(2) Beginning when the inventory for a region is completed or required to be completed, whichever occurs first, all of the following apply:

(a) The forest roads within that region are open to motorized use by the public unless designated otherwise by an order of the department under section 504. However, forest roads in the Upper Peninsula are open to motorized use by the public unless designated otherwise by an order of the department under section 504.

(b) If a timber harvest is planned for a particular area in that region, the department shall evaluate whether the timber harvest activity offers the opportunity to connect existing forest roads and trails in that area.

(c) The department shall not newly restrict a road or trail in that region from being used to access public land unless the department has provided each local unit of government in which the public land is located written notice that includes the reason for the restriction. This subdivision does not apply to a restriction imposed to protect public health or safety in an emergency situation.

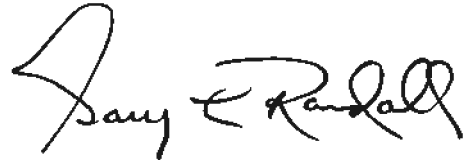
(3) The department shall annually post to its website the total miles of forest roads open to motorized use in all inventoried regions and a map or maps of those forest roads.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days after the date it is enacted into law.

Enacting section 2. This amendatory act does not take effect unless all of the following bills of the 99th Legislature are enacted into law:

- (a) Senate Bill No. 302.
- (b) Senate Bill No. 303.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



-----  
Clerk of the House of Representatives



-----  
Secretary of the Senate

Approved .....

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Governor

## **Appendix C: Michigan Department of Natural Resources Managed Public Land Strategy Proposed Updated Plan 1994 Public Act 451, Section 503(10)**

Public Act 451 of 1994, Section 503(10) requires the Department of Natural Resources to provide a report to the Legislature on the progress toward the goals, proposed changes to the goals, and the department's collaboration with local units of government in the implementation and update of the strategic plan entitled "Department of Natural Resources Managed Public Land Strategy".

### **Land ownership & transactions**

Since 2013, the department's total land ownership acreage has remained relatively constant at just under 4.6 million acres, of which Forest Resources Division manages 3.9 million acres, Parks and Recreation Division manages 357,000 acres and Wildlife Division takes care of 364,000 acres.

From 2013 through fiscal year 2020, total land transactions included:

- Purchases of 17,700 acres for \$86.3 million.
- Land sales of 18,700 acres for \$19.25 million.
- Exchanges involving acquisition of 9,300 acres and disposals of 10,400 acres.
- Gifts of land totaling 3,100 acres.
- Public use deeds conveyed to local governments totaling 1,600 acres.
- Grants of 325 public utility and private access easements valued at \$2.3 million.

### **Progress on land strategy goals**

With the enactment of Public Act 240 of 2018, the Legislature approved the implementation of the strategy dated July 1, 2013. The strategy's three primary goals and the progress toward accomplishing those goals are as follows:

#### **Goal 1: Provide quality outdoor recreation opportunities**

Citizen satisfaction with the quality of recreational opportunities increased from 79% to 84% from 2012 to 2018 according to the Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) survey. Key components of the strategy included increasing access to state lands and to a variety of trail types.

##### **A. Increase access to land**

- The forest road inventory and mapping of roads that are open to ORVs has been completed and is available on the department's website, [Michigan.gov/ForestRoads](http://Michigan.gov/ForestRoads).
- State game and wildlife areas acreage south of the Mason-Arenac line increased from 303,000 to 310,800, while state parks and recreation area land increased from 129,400 to 133,100 acres.
- Highlights of strategic investment in the consolidation of existing DNR-managed lands that improved public access, mitigated hunting safety zones, and increased

management efficiencies included:

- Petersburg State Game Area – Monroe County (73 acres)
  - Barry State Game Area – Barry County (355 acres)
  - Holly State Recreation Area – Oakland County (290 Acres)
  - Unadilla State Waterfowl Area – Livingston County (200 acres)
- Expansion of DNR service acquisitions that provided new public hunting opportunities in southern Michigan included:
    - Potterville State Game Area – Eaton County (444 acres)
    - Cornish State Game Area – Van Buren County (485 acres)
    - Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve – Jackson County (746 acres)
    - Crystal Waters State Game Area – Monroe County (680 acres, purchase expected to be completed in summer 2021)
  - The department made progress in establishing or improving state parks in urban areas including:
    - Management of Belle Isle Park under a lease agreement with the city of Detroit in 2014, including investing \$75.8 million in the park over the last six years.
    - New urban park acquisitions in the 106-acre Holly Oaks ORV Park in Oakland County.
    - Acquisition of the 334-acre Racer Trust (former General Motors facility) property in Saginaw.
    - Partnership with the city of Portage for an urban state game area.

#### B. Increase access to surface water and water trails.

- With partnerships, the department has:
  - Completed, or is in the process of finalizing, 45 acquisition projects encompassing 2,550 acres with over 6.6 miles on the Great Lakes, inland lakes, rivers and streams. The total investment is \$53 million.
  - Funded 88 development projects with a total investment of \$74 million.
  - Continued progress on achieving public access on 29% of lakes under 100 acres.
  - Administered, along with the Waterways Commission, the Harbor Program consisting of 83 safe harbors along the Great Lakes.
  - Designated 3,000 miles of trails on the Great Lakes, inland lakes and rivers (found at [Michiganwatertrails.org](http://Michiganwatertrails.org)).
  - Established eight state-designated water trails, totaling 540 miles, in the southern Lower Peninsula and in the Chain of Lakes in Antrim and Kalkaska counties.

#### C. Increase access to trails.

- Presently there are over 13,000 miles of state-designated motorized and nonmotorized trails in Michigan. An interconnected system of multiuse trails is

located within 5 miles of 76% of Michigan citizens. Since 2013, trail access increases include:

- One hundred new miles (now 650 total miles) of Great Lake-to-Lake linear trails on DNR-managed public lands.
- Trail connections totaling 850 miles toward the completion of the 1,450-mile Iron Belle Trail.
- One hundred miles on the North County Trail throughout the state.
- Major connections linking communities to state park trails in the following areas:
  - Maybury State Park
  - Island Lake Recreation Area
  - Waterloo Recreation Area
  - Pinckney Recreation Area
- Approximately 220 miles of permanent snowmobile trail easements from two commercial forest companies in the Upper Peninsula.

## **Goal 2: Foster regional economic prosperity**

Economic activity and tourism.

- Michigan's economy is heavily tied to natural and cultural resources, for example:
  - From 2012 to 2017, total aggregated forest industry jobs increased 27% (32,186 to 40,746).
  - The DNR prepared for harvest an average of 59,029 acres of timber, containing an average of 1 million cords, annually between 2013 and 2020.
  - The DNR is responsible for managing state-owned minerals and assures they are developed safely and properly to optimize revenue consistent with other public interest and natural resource values.
    - Since 2013, oil and gas revenue on state lands has generated total revenue of \$199.7 million.
    - Due to the decline in demand, oil and gas yearly revenue has decreased nearly 60% from 2013 to 2019.
    - Revenue from metallic and nonmetallic mineral leasing increased from \$1 million in 2013 to \$11.2 million in 2019.
- Attendance at DNR facilities and participation in outdoor activities administered by the department is increasing as evidenced by the following information:
  - Day use at state parks increased from 19 million visitors in 2014 to 26.6 million visitors in 2019, with 2020 day-use numbers estimated by Parks and Recreation Division to exceed 30 million. Visitor numbers at historic state parks have increased well over the 3% goal.
  - Annual nonresident state park passes purchased increased from 250,000 in 2013 to 317,000 in 2019.
  - The annual number of anglers who purchased a fishing license for the first time increased from 245,790 in 2013 to 321,835 in 2020.



- The number of charter fishing boat captains increased from 552 in 2013 to 660 (calendar year 2019).
- While the number of annual hunting licenses for new hunters (those who have not hunted in the past five years) declined from 99,361 in 2013 to 88,416 in 2020, the department and its partners remain dedicated to their recruitment and retention efforts.
- The department maintains an ongoing partnership with the Pure Michigan marketing campaign through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Sharing information, resources and talent, the collaboration reaches residents and visitors to help them learn about fishing, trails, camping, cultural attractions and other outdoor opportunities that they can enjoy in Michigan.

The department is the only state agency that pays Payments in Lieu of Taxes to counties and townships on the land owned by the department. In fiscal year 2020, 3.53 million acres of tax reverted status properties and 1.07 million acres of purchased properties generated payments totaling over \$28.2 million to local governments.

### **Goal 3: Protect natural and cultural resources**

The DNR partners with many organizations who contribute toward shared conservation goals as outlined in numerous plans, including the Upper Mississippi & Great Lakes Region Joint Venture (waterfowl), Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative, American Woodcock Conservation Plan and North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The intent is to increase the capacity for more on-the-ground projects on public and private lands by leveraging partnership opportunities.

There are several grant programs that allow the DNR to direct funds to partners for habitat improvement projects, including:

- **Wildlife Habitat Grant Program.** This program provides funding for projects that will enhance and improve the quality and quantity of game species habitat. Since the program began in 2014, the DNR has awarded \$6.7 million for 102 projects affecting over 16,000 acres statewide.
- **Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative.** This initiative is aimed at enhancing deer habitat on non-state-managed lands in the Upper Peninsula. Since 2013, about \$614,000 has been awarded to partners for habitat work covering 73 projects on approximately 3,600 acres of land.
- **Deer Private Land Assistance Network.** This program was created to improve food and cover for deer on private lands in the northern Lower Peninsula. Since 2014, \$350,000 in funding has been provided for 66 projects that improve deer habitat.
- **Fisheries Habitat Grant Program.** This program supports projects to benefit fisheries, aquatic resources and the public, including fish habitat conservation, dam removal and repair, and access to recreation. This program, along with the Aquatic Habitat Grant, Dam Management Grant, and the Habitat Improvement

Account, has provided approximately \$28.7 million for 121 projects between 2014 and 2020.

- **Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program.** This joint effort between the DNR, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, supports projects that prevent, detect, manage, and eradicate terrestrial and aquatic invasive species. Since 2014, the program has awarded over \$25 million to 173 projects resulting in invasive species treatment of over 38,500 acres of land and water statewide.

The department has continually maintained dual third-party forest certification for 3.9 million acres of state forest lands since 2005 under both the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® and Forest Stewardship Council® forest management standards. Maintaining these certifications requires annual surveillance auditing and includes re-certification audits every three to five years. All projects on state forest land, including timber sales, require a rare species review during development to evaluate the potential impacts of the project on rare species. If potential impacts are identified, mitigation measures are implemented, as appropriate.

A comprehensive database of archaeological cultural resources on Michigan lands, including all DNR-managed public lands, is maintained by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). SHPO currently maintains archeological site records on paper and United States Geological Survey quadrangle maps. In conjunction with SHPO, the department has updated the DNR's priority list of above-ground buildings of historic significance in Michigan state parks and specific cultural resources are identified in park management plans at the time the plans are developed.

The DNR also has developed a strategy using current GIS-based classification systems to protect representative river, lake and Great Lakes coastal habitats. In 2017, a classification system was developed that divided the Great Lakes into 77 aquatic ecological units. The DNR's Institute for Fisheries Research GIS working group is actively developing publicly available GIS tools based on the aforementioned classification systems. The conservation and management of aquatic species and their habits are identified in Fisheries Division's strategic plan, "Charting the Course".

## **Progress on key actions**

### **Project boundary review**

The 2013 Managed Public Land Strategy called for privately owned lands within the dedicated project boundaries to be reduced by 1 million acres. In 2020, DNR staff reviewed department project boundaries that were dedicated in 2004 to make necessary changes and eliminate private inholdings to accurately reflect current priorities for ownership. Periodically reviewing and adjusting these project boundary lines helps to ensure that the dedicated project boundaries reflect the most accurate

and current public land ownership priorities and needs, such as is the case with the 2020 boundary review.

The 2020 dedicated project boundaries contain a total of 5,502,300 acres compared to the 2004 total of 6,569,500 acres – a reduction of 1,067,200 acres. The 2020 dedicated project boundaries can be viewed at [Michigan.gov/PublicLands](https://Michigan.gov/PublicLands) and clicking on [“Project boundary maps”](#).

## **State land review**

The department is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of over 240,000 acres of DNR-managed land that meets the following criteria: 200 acres or less in size and isolated from other DNR lands; or lands that are difficult to administer due to the irregular shape of their boundaries. The DNR is systematically evaluating these parcels in batches of 10 or 11 counties at a time, using a multi-disciplinary, multi-tiered approach that takes into account whether each parcel is contributing strongly to the department’s mission. Based on a number of considerations, program review, and public input, parcels will be placed into one of four categories: dispose, offer to a local unit of government or an alternate conservation owner, make available for land exchange or retain in state ownership. The first batch of 10 counties is due for DNR director action in June 2021 and the entire process is slated for completion by the end of 2023.

## **Proposed changes to the strategy**

Public Act 240 of 2018 also requires the DNR to prepare an update to the 2013 land strategy and to identify any proposed changes to the goals, as well as rationale for those changes. It is important that the updated land strategy accurately reflects the responsibilities and mission of the department and the resulting priorities and goals the DNR seeks to achieve on public lands for the benefit of Michigan’s residents and visitors.

The original 2013 strategic goals were as follows:

- Goal 1: Provide quality outdoor public recreation opportunities
- Goal 2: Foster regional economic prosperity
- Goal 3: Protect natural and cultural resources

The 2013 land strategy placed an emphasis on the DNR maintaining a complex set of metrics to determine successful implementation of the plan. Through the department’s analysis and reporting efforts, it was discovered that many of the metrics and measurable objectives in the original strategy had limited data available for analysis and required additional resources to calculate and track; while others relied too heavily on activities out of the DNR’s control, such as changing market conditions or changes in recreation.

While the focus of each of the original goals remains, they have been restructured to better align with agency mission and management objectives and leverage the department’s other strategic plans. The structure has been amended from “metrics” and

“measurable objectives” to “strategies” and “measurable objectives.” The new proposed goals center around the ideas of “protect, provide and perform” and read as follows:

- Goal 1: Protect natural and cultural resources
- Goal 2: Provide access to outdoor public recreation opportunities
- Goal 3: Perform responsible natural resource management

A few of the key proposed changes to these goals include:

- New strategies to address emerging challenges the DNR has identified as essential, such as addressing the introduction and spread of invasive species and adapting to and remaining resilient to a changing climate.
- Modifying the previous goal of “Foster regional economic prosperity” to be more reflective of the DNR’s constitutional and statutory authorities and responsibilities by shifting the focus to responsible natural resource management. This includes sustainable management of the state forest, mineral development, recreation industry opportunities, and renewable energy.
- Emphasis on diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility of those using DNR-managed public lands, recognizing that all residents should have the opportunity to enjoy the state’s natural and cultural resources.

Additional overall adjustments were made to ensure that the measurable objectives and strategies are realistic and progress toward accomplishing them is achievable within the six-year timeframe of the plan. Another new focus of the proposed strategy update is to recognize geographic and demographic disparities in access to public lands and seek to provide a more equitable, inclusive and accessible public land base.

The proposed changes to the goals and to the entire land strategy will be more aligned with the constitutional and statutory authorities of the DNR, reflect present day priorities, and allow progress to be easily measured and tracked for increased transparency during implementation.

### **Engagement and collaboration with local units of government**

As part of the process to develop the updated land strategy, the department assembled a land strategy sprint team. One of the key components of the sprint team was to create an engagement strategy to inform, involve and collaborate with local units of government in the development of the updated plan.

To ensure that local units of government were included throughout the planning process, members of the sprint team arranged meetings early in the update process with key leaders at the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) and the Michigan Township Association (MTA). The purpose of these meetings, which occurred in June 2020, was to provide information on the process for updating the land strategy and to learn how to best engage with MAC and MTA members.

Beginning with these initial meetings, sprint team members kept in contact with MAC and MTA leaders to ensure regular communication as the development of the strategy progressed. In cooperation with the MTA, the DNR wrote an article on the land strategy

for its monthly magazine, Township Focus, which reaches approximately 6,500-plus elected and appointed government officials. This article was published in the October/November 2020 edition.

As draft components of the land strategy were developed and made available online for input (via [Michigan.gov/PublicLands](https://Michigan.gov/PublicLands)), local units of government were informed of the opportunity to review and submit comments on these draft components through press releases, social media posts, other electronic news bulletins, and notifications provided to their members by the MAC and MTA. In addition to the draft land strategy components, the website also included a description of the land strategy update process, a frequently asked questions section, and a “contact us” section with a dedicated email address, [DNR-LandStrategy@michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-LandStrategy@michigan.gov), for people to send questions, comments and feedback on the draft land strategy components.

The DNR also hosted four facilitated stakeholder sessions for the following regions: southern Lower Peninsula, mid-Michigan, northern Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula. The following local units of government were invited to these meetings:

- Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
- Region 2 Planning Commission
- Southcentral Michigan Planning Council
- Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
- Genesee-Lapeer-Shiawassee Region V Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
- East Michigan Council of Governments
- West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
- Northeast Michigan Council of Governments
- Eastern U.P. Regional Planning and Development Commission
- Central U.P. Planning and Development Region
- Networks Northwest
- Western U.P. Planning and Development Region

In addition to the facilitated stakeholder meetings, individual meetings were held with the MAC Environmental Committee members and with leadership at MTA to further discuss the draft components, respond to questions, and accept comments and suggestions. Additionally, the MTA provided written comments on the draft components.

All comments received were evaluated and incorporated, as appropriate, into the comprehensive draft land strategy, which was again made available for comment in early 2021. The sprint team again worked with the MAC and MTA to make their members aware of the opportunity to review and provide input via a survey or via email on the comprehensive draft document. This was accomplished through a press release, social media posts, other electronic news notifications, and efforts of the MAC and the MTA. Sprint team members again held individual meetings with leadership at both the MAC and MTA to discuss the comprehensive draft and ensure their comments were taken into consideration.

The DNR will continue to work closely with the MAC and the MTA as the updated land strategy is implemented.

### **Conclusion**

As the DNR prepares to close the books on the 2013 Managed Public Land Strategy and shifts its focus to the implementation of the proposed updated 2021 land strategy, it is eager to submit the full, comprehensive land strategy to the Legislature for review and consideration.

### **For more information**

If you have any questions about the 2013 Managed Public Land Strategy or the proposed revised land strategy, contact DNR Senior Adviser for Wildlife and Public Lands, Scott Whitcomb, via email at [WhitcombS@Michigan.gov](mailto:WhitcombS@Michigan.gov).

## **Appendix D: Tribal treaties on state lands**

Federal courts have affirmed that the 1836 Treaty of Washington and the 1842 Treaty of LaPointe have clauses which reserved tribal rights to hunt, along with the usual privileges of occupancy, in the respective treaty-ceded territories\*. Tribal members (of these treaty tribes) may engage in hunting, fishing, and gathering activities on tribal lands and lands and waters that are open to the public for those activities in these treaty-ceded territories.

In the 1836 Treaty area, tribal rights apply to public lands and waters (including, but not limited to, federal and state lands) comprising, approximately, over 4,500,000 acres. In this area, the DNR and the five tribes coordinate their efforts in research and assessment activities and cooperate in conducting certain restoration, reclamation, and enhancement projects and consulting and exchanging information, pursuant to the 2007 Consent Decree.

\*1836 Treaty; Article 13. The Indians stipulate for the right of hunting on the lands ceded, with the other usual privileges of occupancy, until the land is required for settlement.

1842 Treaty; Article 2. The Indians stipulate for the right of hunting on the ceded territory, with the other usual privileges of occupancy, until required to remove by the President of the United States, and that the laws of the United States shall be continued in force, in respect to their trade and inter course with the whites, until otherwise ordered by Congress.

## Appendix E: Sources for economic value of public lands

DNR-managed public lands play a significant role in supporting many aspects of Michigan's economy:

- Michigan's state parks, which draw 28 million visitors each year, act as a catalyst to attract out-of-state tourists and provide a focal point for activities that drive local economies.

*Source: DNR Parks and Recreation Division visitor use statistics.*

- Home to many tourist attractions – known for both their unique natural beauty and rich history – DNR-managed lands are the backbone of Michigan's \$20 billion-plus tourism industry.

*Source: Michigan Economic Development Corporation*

- Harbors and boating access sites on DNR-managed lands also provide access to the Great Lakes and inland lakes and streams for boating, which has an economic impact of more than \$7 billion a year in Michigan.

*Source: National Marine Manufacturers Association 2018 Economic Impact Study, NMMA 2019 Boat Registrations Report, 2018 National Recreational Boating Survey.*

- Michigan's state game and wildlife areas, state forests and state parks offer abundant places to hunt, fish and watch wildlife, all activities that help drive the state's economy. Hunting contributes almost \$9 billion and fishing contributes more than \$2 billion annually.

*Source: [New report: Michigan is No. 1 among Great Lakes states for jobs created from hunting, fishing purchases](#)*

- State forest land supplies about 20% of the timber consumed by the forest products industry statewide. The industry contributes \$20.2 billion and more than 91,000 jobs to the economy annually.

*Source: [Forest Products Industries' Economic Contributions \(page 18\)](#)*

- Approximately 599,000 acres of DNR-managed mineral rights are leased for mineral exploration and extraction. The mineral extraction industry contributes over \$20 million and 5,000 jobs to the Michigan economy annually.



*Sources: Financial figure from mineral royalties deposited into the State Park Endowment Fund in 2020, gathered from the DNR Land Ownership Tracking System. Employment information*

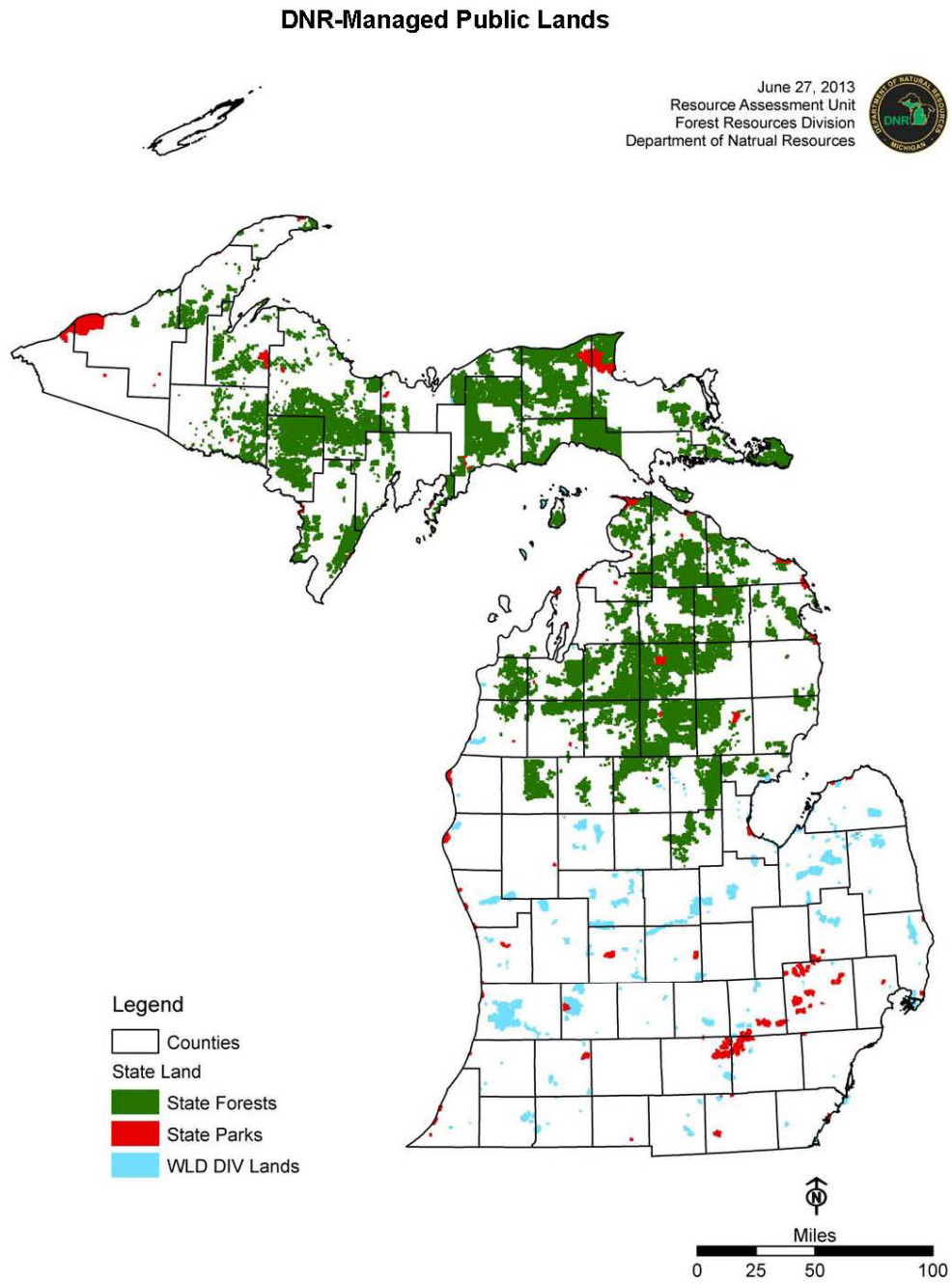
## Appendix F: The Land Nobody Wanted

Strategic land ownership has always been a priority for the people of Michigan. For the story of Michigan's public domain, read ["The Land Nobody Wanted"](#).

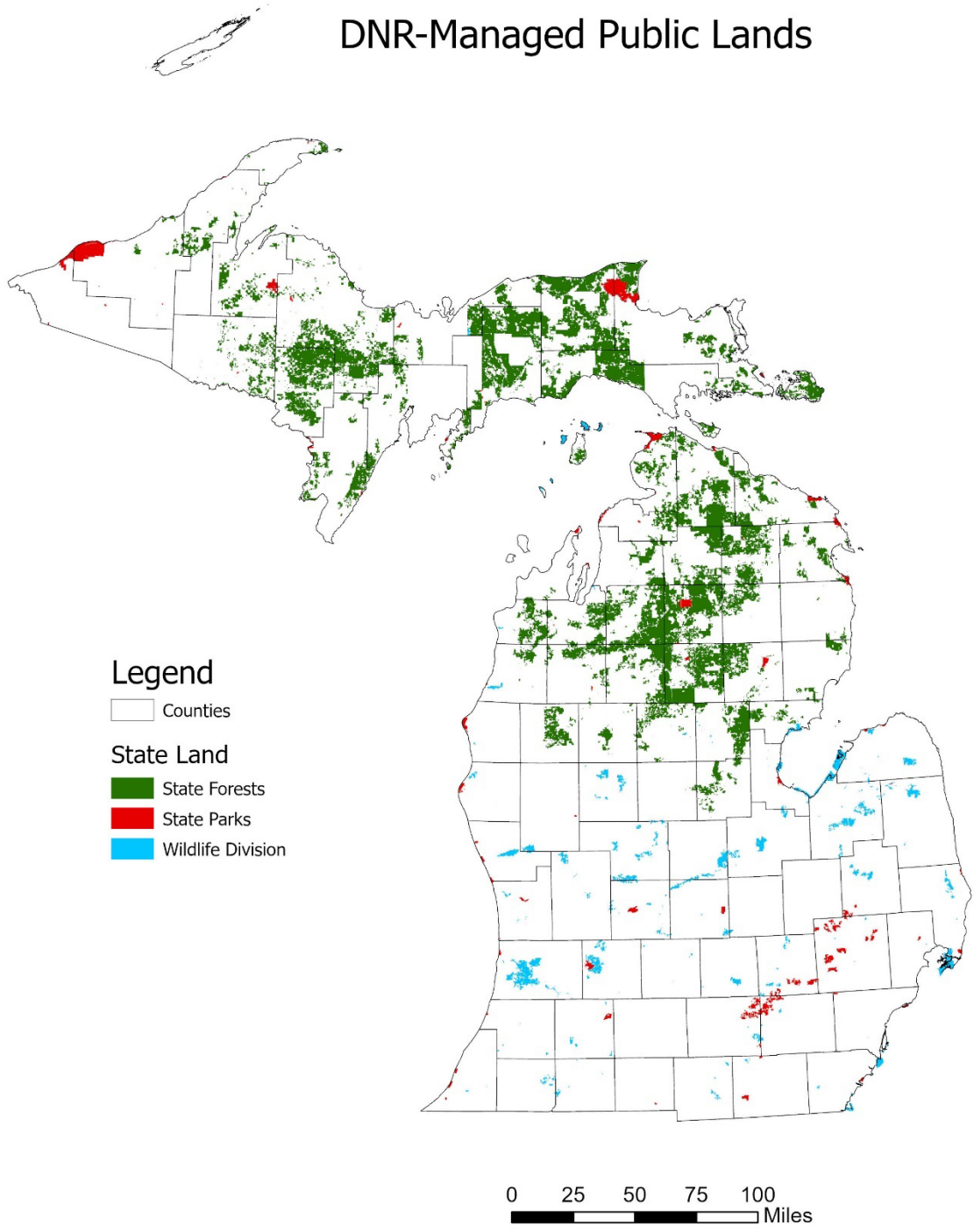


# Appendix G: DNR-managed public lands through the years

DNR-managed public lands in 2013.



DNR-managed public lands in 2021.



## **Appendix H: Dedicated project boundaries**

Dedicated project boundaries for 2020 can be accessed by visiting [Michigan.gov/PublicLands](https://Michigan.gov/PublicLands) and clicking on "[Project boundary maps.](#)"

Department of Natural Resources  
**Boundary Review Process Guidelines**

**INFORMATION PREPARATION (4 weeks):**

- A. Resource Assessment Section (RAS) develops AGO-based web application using current GIS information including current ownership, 2004 dedicated project boundaries, 2011 proposed project boundaries, and PRD General Management Plan boundaries.
- B. RAS trains Land Acquisition Strategy Team (LAST) on how to use the web application for boundary review.
- C. LAST holds training sessions, which include guidance documents, for first level reviewers (FRD Unit Managers, Wildlife and Fisheries biologists, PRD Unit Managers) on how to use the web application and the boundary review considerations.
- D. LAST establishes Regional Review Teams for review of first level recommendations and resolution of non-concurrence at the first level.
- E. LAST establishes deadlines and develops staff notification of the assignment for distribution by Natural Resources Deputy Director.

**FIELD REVIEW (6 weeks):**

- A. First level reviewers conduct a review of their respective area of responsibility and recommend changes electronically in the web viewer. (desk review via the web viewer or on-site visit when necessary) It is strongly recommended that first level staff work together on this effort with their counterparts in the other resource divisions. **(4 weeks)**
- B. Appropriate members of LAST coordinate and facilitate each Regional Review Team meeting to review recommendations, resolve matters of non-concurrence, and enter final recommendations into web application. **(2 weeks)**.

**LAND REVIEW TEAM/PUBLIC REVIEW (6 weeks)**

- A. LAST completes final review of recommendations for statewide consistency and presents proposed boundaries to each respective division leadership for information and input. Prepares for public review and comment. **(2 weeks concurrently)**.
- B. RAS develops a public web viewer interface for public review and comment

and completes data cleanup and prepares final draft boundaries and maps.  
**(2 weeks concurrently)**

- C. Boundary recommendations are made available to the public for review via a press release and public web viewer. **(4 weeks)**

### **FINAL RECOMMENDATION (4+ weeks)**

- A. LAST considers public input and, if appropriate, incorporates changes into final recommendations to the Director.
- B. LAST prepares Director's memorandum based on results of review process, as outlined above, and submits for placement on NRC agenda and DNR calendar **(2 weeks)**.
- C. Director makes decision on final dedicated project boundaries at NRC meeting.
- D. Approved dedicated project boundaries are made available to the public via web viewer and published PDF maps by county on the DNR website.

## **Appendix I: State land review process**



# DNR State Land Review Implementation Plan

## INFORMATION PREPARATION

- A. Land Acquisition Strategy Team (LAST) determines counties to be reviewed.
- B. Staff from the Resource Assessment Section develops a web viewer/editor (known as State Land Reviewer) using the Land Ownership Tracking System (LOTS) and the ownership parcels layer to facilitate the state land review.
- C. State Land Reviewer will incorporate information from the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) of known occurrences of threatened and endangered species and information from the state archeologist on cultural resources.
- D. LAST establishes deadlines, notifies reviewers (through Resource Deputy) of the assignment, and provides direction.

## FIELD REVIEW (12 weeks)

- E. Field staff conducts a review of each identified parcel (either desk review or on-site visit when necessary) using the State Land Reviewer and makes a recommendation for each parcel using one of the following classifications **(6 weeks)**:
  - 1. Retain in state ownership and DNR administration due to natural resource values, cultural resource values, and recreational opportunities and/or location.
  - 2. Natural resource values, cultural resources values, and/or recreational values are such that the parcel should remain protected and/or accessible to the public but potentially owned by a local unit of government or an alternative conservation owner. If there is no interest from those entities, the parcel should be retained.
  - 3. Natural resource, cultural resource, and/or recreational values are such that the parcel does not need to remain in DNR or alternative conservation ownership. However, due to the location and characteristics of the parcel, it would be most appropriate to initially make the parcel available for a land exchange.
  - 4. Natural resource, cultural resource, and/or recreational values are such that the parcel does not need to remain in DNR or alternative conservation ownership. The parcel can be sold via auction with proceeds used to obtain and manage lands of greater natural resource, cultural resource, or recreational values that would help consolidate DNR ownership. All properties will be offered to local units of government for purchase prior to being sold via auction.

- F. Lead reviewer (as designated by LAST) attempts to resolve cases of non-concurrence, completes final local field review recommendation into State Land Reviewer and assigns managing division in consultation with other divisions **(2 Weeks)**.
- G. Regional supervisors from each of the resource managing divisions meet to review recommendations, resolve matters of non-concurrence (if possible), and enter recommendations into Regional State Land Reviewer **(4 Weeks)**.
- H. LAST meets, if necessary, to resolve matters of nonconcurrence.

**PROGRAM/LAST/PUBLIC REVIEW (7 weeks)**

- I. Real Estate Services Section completes a review of parcels classified as 2, 3, and 4 for any restrictions placed on the parcels related to management and transfer of ownership **(2 weeks concurrent)**
- J. Minerals Management completes Mineral Evaluation Review for all parcels being considered for classification as 2, 3, and 4. **(2 weeks concurrent)**.
- K. Department of Environmental, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) completes a review of all parcels being considered for classification as 2, 3, and 4 for possible Critical Dune, High Risk Erosion or Environmental Area concerns **(2 weeks concurrent)**.
- L. Resource Assessment Section completes analysis for all parcels being considered for classification as 2, 3, and 4 to determine suitability of parcels for renewable energy development such as a solar array or wind farm. **(2 weeks concurrent)**
- M. LAST completes final review of recommendations for statewide consistency and prepares for public review and comment **(2 weeks)**.
- N. Parcel recommendations for all parcels are provided to the public for review and public meetings held to obtain public comment **(3 weeks)**.

**FINAL RECOMMENDATION (4 weeks +)**

- O. Results of the review and public comments for all parcels are reviewed by the Land Exchange Review Committee (LERC). LERC makes final recommendations on reviewed parcels to the Director. **(2 weeks)**.
- P. Real Estate Services Section prepares Director's memorandum based on results of review process, as outlined above, and submits for placement on NRC agenda and DNR calendar **(2 weeks)**.
- Q. Director makes decision on final classification of each parcel at a public NRC meeting. LAST provides results of Director's decision to appropriate division staff.
- R. Parcel classifications and comments are incorporated into LOTS for each parcel by Real Estate Services Section.

# State Land Review Schedule

COUNTY GROUPINGS	START	END	COUNTIES	
<b>Group 1</b>				
Local Field Review	9/21/20	10/30/20	Berrien	Gogebic
Lead Review	10/30/20	11/13/20	Branch	Leelanau
Regional Review	11/13/20	12/11/20	Cass	
Program Review	12/12/20	1/8/21	Charlevoix	
LAST Review	1/8/21	3/7/21	Chippewa	
Public Review	3/8/21	3/19/21	Dickinson	
LERC Review	3/20/21	4/16/21	Alpena	
Director Review	4/17/21	6/11/21	St Joseph	
<b>Group 2</b>				
Local Field Review	2/15/21	3/26/21	Antrim	Hillsdale
Lead Review	3/27/21	4/9/21	Arenac	Van Buren
Regional Review	4/10/21	5/7/21	Iron	
Program Review	5/8/21	5/21/21	Grand Traverse	
LAST Review	5/22/21	6/4/21	Iosco	
Public Review	6/5/21	6/26/21	Kalamazoo	
LERC Review	6/26/21	7/23/21	Luce	
Director Review	7/24/21	9/17/21	Ontonagon	
<b>Group 3</b>				
Local Field Review	5/31/21	7/9/21	Alcona	Oceana
Lead Review	7/10/21	7/23/21	Emmet	St Clair
Regional Review	7/24/21	8/20/21	Calhoun	
Program Review	8/21/21	9/3/21	Houghton	
LAST Review	9/4/21	9/17/21	Keweenaw	
Public Review	9/18/21	10/8/21	Mackinac	
LERC Review	10/8/21	10/29/21	Macomb	
Director Review	10/30/21	12/17/21	Mason	
<b>Group 4</b>				
Local Field Review	9/20/21	10/29/21	Lapeer	Sanilac
Lead Review	10/30/21	11/12/21	Roscommon	Washtenaw
Regional Review	11/13/21	12/10/21	Gratiot	
Program Review	12/11/21	12/24/21	Huron	
LAST Review	12/25/21	1/7/22	Isabella	
Public Review	1/8/22	1/28/22	Lenawee	
LERC Review	1/29/22	2/18/22	Marquette	
Director Review	2/19/22	4/15/22	Monroe	

**Group 5**

Local Field Review	2/14/22	3/25/22	Delta	Saginaw
Lead Review	3/26/22	4/8/22	Kent	Tuscola
Regional Review	4/9/22	5/6/22	Livingston	
Program Review	5/7/22	5/20/22	Menominee	
LAST Review	5/21/22	6/3/22	Montcalm	
Public Review	6/4/22	6/24/22	Oakland	
LERC Review	6/25/22	7/22/22	Ogemaw	
Director Review	7/23/22	9/16/22	Oscoda	

**Group 6**

Local Field Review	5/30/22	7/8/22	Alger	Presque Isle
Lead Review	7/9/22	7/22/22	Allegan	Schoolcraft
Regional Review	7/23/22	8/19/22	Barry	Wexford
Program Review	8/20/22	9/2/22	Bay	
LAST Review	9/3/22	9/16/22	Gladwin	
Public Review	9/17/22	10/7/22	Lake	
LERC Review	10/8/22	10/28/22	Midland	
Director Review	10/29/22	12/16/22	Montmorency	

**Group 7**

Local Field Review	9/19/22	10/28/22	Cheboygan	Osceola
Lead Review	10/29/22	11/11/22	Crawford	Otsego
Regional Review	11/12/22	12/9/22	Eaton	Ottawa
Program Review	12/10/22	12/23/22	Ingham	
LAST Review	12/24/22	1/6/23	Jackson	
Public Review	1/7/23	1/27/23	Kalkaska	
LERC Review	1/28/23	2/17/23	Missaukee	
Director Review	2/18/23	4/14/23	Muskegon	

**Group 8**

Local Field Review	2/13/23	3/24/23	Benzie	Baraga
Lead Review	3/25/23	4/7/23	Clinton	Shiawassee
Regional Review	4/8/23	5/5/23	Genesee	Wayne
Program Review	5/6/23	5/19/23	Ionia	
LAST Review	5/20/23	6/2/23	Clare	
Public Review	6/3/23	6/23/23	Manistee	
LERC Review	6/24/23	7/21/23	Mecosta	
Director Review	7/22/23	9/15/23	Newaygo	

**Group 9**

Local Field Review	5/29/23	7/7/23		
Lead Review	7/8/23	7/21/23		
Regional Review	7/22/23	8/18/23		
Program Review	8/19/23	9/1/23		Statewide Miscellaneous
LAST Review	9/2/23	9/15/23		
Public Review	9/16/23	10/6/23		
LERC Review	10/7/23	10/27/23		
Director Review	10/28/23	12/15/23		

## Appendix J: Land transactions – exchanges and disposals

## Land transaction policy



Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
**POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

**26.26-06 – Review of Land Transaction Applications  
(Revised: 01/21/2020)**

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***Supersedes:***

26.26-06 - Review of Land Transaction Applications (issued: 03/01/2002).

***Issue/Purpose:***

Staff of the DNR reviews hundreds of LTAs annually requiring a coordinated and consistent process as provided in this document.

***Definitions:***

DNR: Department of Natural Resources

First Level Field Managers:

- Fisheries Division (FD) - Habitat Biologist
- Forest Resources Division (FRD) - Unit Manager
- Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) - Park/Unit Supervisor
- Wildlife Division (WLD) - Area Wildlife Biologist

LAD: Land Administering Divisions – FRD, PRD and WLD

LTA: Land Transaction Application (Land Transaction Exchange Application or Land Transaction Purchase Application)

LERC: Land Exchange Review Committee

Mid-Level Field Managers:

- FRD - District Supervisor
- PRD - District Supervisor
- WLD – Field Operations Manager
- FD – Lake Unit Manager

OMM: Office of Minerals Management

RES: Real Estate Services Section of the Finance and Operations Division

T&E: Threatened and Endangered

***Policy:***

The DNR holds and manages public lands to provide quality recreation opportunities, foster regional prosperity, and protect intact and facilitate rehabilitation of degraded natural and cultural resources. The DNR-Managed Public Land Strategy defines the outcomes expected from DNR-managed public lands and the measurable objectives for meeting those outcomes. The DNR will retain in public ownership, lands that meet or further those measurable objectives.



## 26.26-06 – Review of Land Transaction Applications

Staff will use the criteria defined in this policy to determine if a proposed land transaction will diminish quality recreational opportunities, hinder regional prosperity initiatives, or impair the protection/rehabilitation of cultural or natural resources as defined by the measurable objectives.

### **Explanation:**

It is necessary for staff of the LAD of the DNR to review and provide comments on LTAs. These LTAs are normally requests made by the public, which include requests of DNR-managed lands for land exchanges, conveyances for public purposes, sale of land or easements for private purposes.

### **Administering Division:**

Finance and Operations Division, Real Estate Services Section

### **Procedure:**

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| LAD | 1. Continuously provides updated division organization chart and personnel list to RES for any changes in division organizational structure or personnel.  |
| RES | 2. Receives LTA and conducts an initial review of the LTA to determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completeness of the LTA.</li><li>• If the state owns the property.</li><li>• If the DNR manages the property.</li><li>• If the parcel has been owned by the DNR for more than five years.</li><li>• The original funding source for the acquisition of the land.</li><li>• The LAD.</li><li>• Through preliminary analysis, if the sale of the parcel would cause the Land Exchange Facilitation Fund to exceed \$25 million.</li><li>• Presence of T&amp;E species.</li><li>• If the parcel has an active mineral lease.</li><li>• If the parcel is on a current surplus property auction list.</li><li>• If the parcel is subject to another active LTA.</li></ul> |
|     | 3. Consults with the LAD if the LTA is for a parcel with high value resources to determine if the LTA is unlikely to be approved.  |
|     | 4. If the initial review reveals that the proposed parcel meets any of the determinations and cannot be processed; RES informs the applicant that the LTA is closed, and the application fee is refunded.  |
|     | 5. If after the initial review, RES determines that the LTA can move forward for further review, a case manager is assigned.   |

## 26.26-06 – Review of Land Transaction Applications

6. Sends a copy of the LTA and map of proposed request to OMM.
- OMM
7. Evaluates mineral potential and values of LTA and returns completed mineral review to RES within two work weeks.
- RES
8. Initiates review containing deadlines, LTA, maps, mineral review and T & E presence and information provided by the applicant to the following:
- First Level Field Manager of lead LAD
  - The other LAD First Level Field Managers
  - Lead LAD Land Liaison
  - Lead LAD Mid-Level Field Manager
  - Recreation Trails Section of PRD
- NOTE: Time frame for the completion of the review will be determined by RES based on the application.
- Recreation Trails Section
9. Evaluates the LTA to determine if there is a snowmobile, ORV or designated trail on the property and provides a recommendation as to whether the trail can be relocated.
10. Evaluates the LTA to determine the impact the approval of the LTA would have on any trail included in the proposed property transaction.
- NOTE: Recreation Trails Section shall submit their findings within two work weeks.
- First Level Field Managers
11. Determines if the LTA should be approved, modified or denied by using the criteria below.
- Does the property have public access?
  - Does the property have access to water?
  - Does the property have a T&E species?
  - Is the property within a state park?
  - Is the property within a wildlife area?
  - Is the property surrounded by state owned property?
  - Would sale of the property block in ownership of Commercial Forest Act lands or federal, county or local units of government land ownership?
  - Is the parcel in a designated resource protection area?
  - Are there historical structures or cultural resources on the property?
  - Is the property occupied by a private party through an inadvertent trespass?
  - Will transfer of the property promote the development of the forest products or mineral extraction and utilization industry?

## 26.26-06 – Review of Land Transaction Applications

- Is there high-quality timber on the property?
- Is there a trail on the property?
- Is there a developed recreational facility on the property or has the potential for future development been identified in the park General Management Plan?
- Does the property include key landscape features as defined by the State Wildlife Action Plan or key aquatic habitat as indicated in a Fisheries Division River Assessment or Plan?
- Would the sale of the property degrade intact system processes, self-sustaining fish and wildlife populations, or prevent the rehabilitation of those presently degraded?
- Would sale of the property into private ownership further an area's economic prosperity as identified in a locally or regionally developed and approved plan?
- Is the property essential to the unique character of the region as defined by a regionally adopted plan?
- Would sale of the property further a local or regional unit of government's recreation or other resource protection priorities as identified in a locally or regionally adopted plan?
- Is the property contaminated?
- Would sale of the property diminish the value of adjoining public lands?
- Does the land continue to meet the purpose for which it was purchased?

NOTE: If input is not received within 45 days from other First Level Field Managers, the Lead LAD shall assume concurrence with his/her recommendation.

12. Provides recommendations to the First Level Field Manager of the Lead LAD.

First Level Field Manager of Lead LAD

13. Determines concurrence or nonconcurrence.

Land Liaison of Lead LAD

14. If there has been no action on the LTA based on the time frames set for the review, the Land Liaison for the lead LAD immediately notifies the Mid-Level Field Manager of the lead LAD who shall proceed with the LTA review process.

### **CONCURRENCE**

First Level Field Manager of Lead LAD

15. Compiles report with a formal recommendation after receiving First Level Field Managers input. Forwards recommendation, comments and LTA to Mid-Level Field Manager.

## 26.26-06 – Review of Land Transaction Applications

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Mid-Level Field Manager of Lead LAD | 16. Reviews proposals and recommendation from a regional perspective and provides a recommendation to the Land Liaison for Lead LAD.  |
| Land Liaison of Lead LAD            | 17. After receiving completed field review, evaluates proposal from a statewide perspective for consistency, etc., makes any necessary adjustments and sends final recommendation to RES for the next LERC meeting. |
| RES                                 | 18. Receives proposal and prepares package for the next LERC meeting.   |

### **NON-CONCURRENCE**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| First Level Manager of Lead LAD         | 15. If the First Level Field Managers do not reach concurrence on the disposition of the LTA, prepares background information and sends it to the Mid-Level Field Manager of Lead LAD.                               |
| Mid-Level Field Manager of Lead LAD     | 16. Receives the LTA and forwards it with recommendation/background information to the Mid-Level Field Managers of the non-lead LADs. Attempts to reach concurrence with other Mid-Level Field Managers.             |
| Mid-Level Field Manager of Non-Lead LAD | 17. Reviews LTA, recommendation and staff comments and provides input to lead LAD Mid-Level Field Manager.<br><br>NOTE: Failure to provide comments within 21 days signifies concurrence with the recommendation.    |
| Mid-Level Field Manager of Lead LAD     | 18. If concurrence is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reached – go to step 25.</li><li>• Not reached, prepares background information and sends to Assistant Chief of the Lead LAD.</li></ul>               |
| Assistant Chief of the Lead LAD         | 19. Sends LTA, a recommendation regarding the disposition of the LTA and comments to the Assistant Chiefs of the other LAD.  |
| Assistant Chief of the Non-Lead LAD     | 20. Provides comments within 21 days to lead LAD Assistant Chief.  |
| Assistant Chief of Lead LAD             | 21. Receives comments from non-lead LAD and if concurrence is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reached – go to step 25.</li><li>• Not reached, submits LTA and comments to his/her Division Chief.</li></ul> |
| Division Chief of Lead LAD              | 22. Sends LTA, recommendation regarding the disposition the LTA and comments to Division Chiefs of other non-lead LAD.   |
| Division Chiefs of Non-Lead LAD         | 23. Submits comments within 21 days to Division Chief of Lead LAD.   |

**26.26-06 – Review of Land Transaction Applications**

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Division Chief of Lead LAD | 24. Receives comments and reaches concurrence among LAD. Notifies the Lead LAD land liaison whether the LTA has been approved or rejected.                  |
| Land Liaison of Lead LAD   | 25. After receiving the concurrent recommendation, makes any necessary adjustments and prepares packet with final recommendation for the next LERC meeting. |
| RES                        | 26. Receives recommendation package and prepares report for the next LERC meeting.  |

***Related Reference:***

PR6344 Land Transaction Application - Exchange

PR6345 Land Transaction Application - Purchase

**26.26-06 – Review of Land Transaction Applications** is hereby approved.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Eichinger, Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Effective Date

## **Land exchanges**

- Exchanges are an effective tool for the DNR to consolidate ownership and acquire desired properties while also divesting of state land that does not assist in accomplishing the DNR's mission.
- Of primary focus for the DNR is to improve management and enhance the public's enjoyment and use of state land by acquiring the private parcels that are adjacent to existing state land and lie within DNR project boundaries. To achieve this, consideration is regularly given to proposals that offer land within the project boundaries in exchange for state land that may be considered for disposal.
- Private lands offered to the DNR must have approximately equal or greater value, based on an appraisal, than the market value of the state lands being considered for disposal through a proposed exchange.
- All proposed land exchanges are thoroughly reviewed following the Land Transaction Application process, which includes a multi-divisional, multi-level review applying specific criteria and culminates in a decision made by the Director at a public meeting.



# LAND TRANSACTION APPLICATION - EXCHANGE

By authority of Part 21 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended.

DNR Cashier's Use Only (LTA)

This application provides the opportunity to propose an exchange of State-owned land.

The market value of the land offered in exchange must be equal to or greater than the market value of the State-owned land. The public use potential or natural resource value of the offered land must be equal to or greater than that of the State-owned land. Each application will be evaluated on its own merits.

Please provide a full and complete legal description or identify the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parcel ID Number of the State-owned land desired and a full and complete legal description of the land offered in exchange. Surveys may be required. **Attach map(s)** and include additional pages, if necessary. Complete all requested information and sign and date on page 3.

Payment of \$300 (for State-owned land totaling 300 acres or less) must accompany this application. Please enclose a check or money order made payable to "State of Michigan." For State-owned land totaling more than 300 acres, a reasonable fee will be charged (based on the complexity of the application) and the applicant will be notified of this fee. Applications will NOT be reviewed without payment.

You will be notified if the application is complete or if additional information is required within 60 days after the application is received. If additional information is required, the application will not be deemed complete until all requested information is received by the DNR.

Public Act 238 of 2018 requires once an application is deemed complete, the DNR has six (6) months to approve or deny the application, unless the applicant and the DNR agree to waive the requirement. (See page 3)

APPLICANT INFORMATION					
Name of Applicant(s)			Organization		
Mailing Address			Telephone Number (including area code)		
City, State, ZIP			E-mail Address		
DESIRED STATE-OWNED LAND					
DNR Parcel ID Number	County	Township Name	Section(s)	Town	Range
Legal Description:					
Acres: _____					
OFFERED LAND IN EXCHANGE					
County	Township Name		Section(s)	Town	Range
Legal Description:					
Will mineral rights be conveyed to the State? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <span style="float: right;">Acres: _____</span>					

**Complete all three (3) pages.**

Please answer the following questions. Attach additional pages, if necessary.

<b>A. DESIRED STATE-OWNED LAND</b>	
1.	Does the desired State-owned land adjoin your present ownership? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2.	Explain your use for the desired State-owned land:
<b>B. OFFERED LAND IN EXCHANGE</b>	
1.	How is the offered land presently being used?
2.	Are there any improvements on the offered land? If so, describe briefly.
3.	List the public benefits of the offered land.
4.	Do you own the mineral rights associated with the offered land? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If No, explain:
5.	Will you provide a Warranty Deed on the offered land to the State? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If No, explain:
6.	It is recommended you discuss the proposal with the local DNR land manager prior to submitting this application. Have you discussed the proposal with the local DNR land manager? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
7.	Provide name of DNR land manager and summarize ANY comments:
8.	I have received the "Land Exchanges and Sales Guide". <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**Complete all three (3) pages.**



Public Act 238 of 2018 requires once an application is deemed complete, the DNR has six (6) months to approve or deny the application, unless the applicant and DNR agree to waive the requirement. Please check one of the following two options:

**OPTION 1 – All Documents are Included with this Application:**

By checking these boxes and signing this application, I/we certify the following materials are included with the application:

- Full and complete legal descriptions of the desired and offered lands.
- Title Commitment and a 40-year title search of offered lands, including copies of all recorded documents. I/we have provided a copy of Attachment A, Title Instructions, to the title company.
- Real estate appraisals on the desired and offered lands. Appraisals were completed by a DNR pre-approved appraiser and in accordance with DNR and USPAP appraisal standards. I/we have provided a copy of Attachment B, DNR Appraisal Report Standards, to the appraiser.

I/we further understand and acknowledge:

- Once the application review is deemed complete, processing time to receive final approval/denial is six (6) months.
- The submission of this application and application materials does not guarantee approval of the land exchange will be granted.
- If my application is denied, no refund or reimbursement will be made for the expenses incurred in submitting the application, including appraisals, surveys and/or any other application materials.

**OPTION 2 – Appraisal Documents are NOT Included with this Application (Timeline Waiver):**

By checking these boxes and signing this application, I/we certify the following materials are included with the application:

- Full and complete legal descriptions of the desired and offered lands.
- Title Commitment and a 40-year title search of offered lands, including copies of all recorded documents. I/we have provided a copy of Attachment A, Title Instructions, to the title company.

I/We further understand and acknowledge:

- By submitting this application without the appraisals, the application will go through a preliminary approval/denial process. If a preliminary approval is granted, it does not guarantee final approval of the land exchange will be granted.
- If preliminary approval is granted, the appraisals will need to be provided by the applicant and at the applicant's expense, prior to final approval/denial.
- If my application is denied, no refund or reimbursement will be made for the expenses incurred in submitting the application, including appraisals, surveys and/or any other application materials.
- By submitting this application without the appraisals, processing time to receive final approval/denial will be extended beyond 6-months.

<i>I certify that all information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.</i>	
<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Signature of Applicant(s)</i>	<i>Date</i>

*If you have questions regarding the completion of this Application, please contact Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Real Estate Services Section, telephone 517-284-5941.*

*Mail completed application and check or money order made payable to the "State of Michigan" to:*

**CASHIER'S OFFICE  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30451  
LANSING MI 48909-7951**



## **ATTACHMENT A – TITLE INSTRUCTIONS**

Submit proof of title on the offered land for review in the form of:

- A. Title research and results, to the following minimum specifications: date including 10-year property tax history and State and Federal Tax Lien Search,
  - a. 40-year marketable title search with the earliest deed of record being 40 or more years old.
  - b. Copies of all pages of all documents in the title search.
  - c. Copies of all pages of all documents listed as exceptions in the title commitment.
  - d. Copies of all pages of all documents as indicated on the title search documents.
  - e. Copies of property tax receipts for current taxes.
  - f. We are not asking for a mineral search, but we are asking for copies of all found documents which relate to the mineral estate.
- B. Commitment for “Owners” Title Insurance Policy:
  - a. Insuring title to the STATE OF MICHIGAN in an amount of \$TBD.
  - b. Commitment must include the jacket.



## ATTACHMENT B – APPRAISAL REPORT STANDARDS

To prepare an appraisal report and/or appraisal review for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the appraiser **MUST** be on the DNR Approved Appraiser List and the appraiser **MUST** be licensed in the State of Michigan as a Certified General Appraiser. To register for the DNR Approved Appraiser List, please contact Kelly Ramirez, DNR Appraisal Supervisor, at 517-284-5947 or at [ramirezkm@michigan.gov](mailto:ramirezkm@michigan.gov).

**NOTE:** *For all DNR appraisal assignments, the Certified General Appraiser under contract is the ONLY person authorized to analyze the data, make value adjustments, reconcile value conclusions and sign the Certification. Any deviation from this requirement MUST receive written approval from the DNR Appraisal Supervisor prior to commencing work on the appraisal report.*

Currently, the DNR uses SIGMA Vendor Self Service (VSS) to do the following:

1. To sign up for Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT)
2. To sign up to receive bid requests on appraisal assignments

To register for these services, log into the SIGMA VSS website at: [www.michigan.gov/VSSLogin](http://www.michigan.gov/VSSLogin). To sign up for EFT's, go to Vendor Registration. To sign up to receive bid requests on appraisal assignments, go to Business Opportunities, Solicitations. If you have any questions on the SIGMA VSS registration process, please contact Vendor Registration at 1-888-734-9749 or at [SIGMA-Vendor@michigan.gov](mailto:SIGMA-Vendor@michigan.gov).

All DNR appraisal reports must be in narrative format, unless otherwise specified, and must adhere to DNR Appraisal Report Standards and USPAP requirements that are current as of the date of the appraisal report. If Federal money is involved, the appraiser may have to be Yellow Book Certified and follow Yellow Book requirements. Appraisal reports not adhering to these requirements will be returned for correction.

The use of the Development/Subdivision Approach is NOT allowed on DNR appraisal reports. Any deviation from this requirement MUST receive written approval from the DNR Appraisal Supervisor prior to commencing work on the appraisal report.

For DNR appraisal reports, the use of Hypothetical Conditions and Extraordinary Assumptions MUST receive written approval from the DNR Appraisal Supervisor prior to commencing work on the appraisal report.

For DNR appraisal reports, the use of qualitative adjustments (versus quantitative adjustments) MUST receive written approval from the DNR Appraisal Supervisor prior to commencing work on the appraisal report.

For larger valued properties, two appraisals are required. The DNR will contract two appraisers from the DNR Approved Appraisal List. The two contracted appraisers are responsible for any coordination needed to complete the appraisal reports.

When the appraisal report is complete, an unsigned, electronic report must be submitted to the DNR Appraisal Supervisor for review. Upon completion of the appraisal review, one signed, hard copy AND one signed, electronic copy of the appraisal report is required. Invoices will be paid upon receipt of the final, signed, electronic copy of the appraisal report.

## I. **GENERAL DATA**

- A. Cover Page – Include the following information regarding the subject property:
1. Photograph
  2. Name of Record Owner and Mailing Address
  3. Location/Address, including Township, City, County
  4. Tax ID Number
  5. Name of Project and Case Number
  6. Acreage
  7. Name of Subsurface Owner, if applicable
  8. Appraiser's Name and Address
  9. Effective Date of Value
- B. Table of Contents
1. Number every page from cover to cover
  2. List titles of contents and corresponding pages numbers
- C. Summary Page – Include the following information regarding the subject property:
1. Name of Project and Case Number
  2. Name of Owner/Lessee, including mailing address(es)
  3. Location (include Road, City, Township, Section, County, Road/Water Frontage and Legal Description)
  4. Property Details (include Improvements, Leases, Easements, Encroachments, Permits and Mineral Rights)
  5. Total Area, Size and Dimensions of Property
  6. Name of Appraiser, Business Address, Email Address, Phone Number and Appraisal License Number
  7. Date of Value
  8. Date of Report
  9. Date(s) of Inspection
  10. Purpose of Appraisal
  11. Interest being Appraised
  12. Intended Users
  13. Highest and Best Use
  14. Final Reconciled Value under the Sales Comparison Approach, Cost Approach, Income Approach
- NOTE:** *The Development/Subdivision Approach is NOT allowed on DNR Appraisal Reports.*
- D. Statement of Assumptions and Limiting Conditions
- E. Scope of Appraisal – Summarize the process and assistance received in collecting and confirming the data, the inspection date(s) on the subject property and the valuation process relied on in determining market value. Provide adequate location maps and photographs of the subject property.
- F. Purpose of Appraisal – Clearly set forth the purpose for which the appraisal report is being prepared, which is to establish market value for the subject property. For DNR appraisal reports, market value is defined as:

*The most probable price, as of a specified date, in cash, or in terms equivalent to cash, or in other precisely revealed terms, for which the specified property rights should sell after reasonable exposure in a competitive market under conditions requisite to a fair sale, with the buyer and seller each acting prudently, knowledgeable, and for self-interest, and assuming neither is under undue duress.*

- G. Intended Users
- H. Market Exposure/Marketing Time
- I. Hypothetical Conditions and Extraordinary Assumptions – Define Hypothetical Conditions and Extraordinary Assumptions and list any utilized in the valuation of the subject property.

**NOTE:** *The use of Hypothetical Conditions and Extraordinary Assumptions MUST receive written approval from the DNR Appraisal Supervisor prior to commencing work on the appraisal report.*

- J. Hazardous Waste and Property Contamination – Fully research and describe any physical details of the land and improvements which are unusual and indicate possible presence of hazardous wastes or contamination (i.e., unvegetated or stained areas, underground tanks, foam insulation, asbestos, transformers and electrical equipment containing PCB's and product and processing materials). Detail your inquiries to, and responses from, the property owners and/or other persons knowledgeable about the subject property. Include their knowledge of past uses of the subject property and of adjoining properties.
  - 1. If you suspect hazardous waste or property contamination on the subject property, immediately contact the Case Manager listed on the Fee Appraisal Request (FAR)
  - 2. If you find no evidence of hazardous waste or property contamination on the subject property, the following statement should be included in your appraisal report:

*“No evidence of hazardous waste or property contamination was observed by the appraiser; however, this appraiser is not versed in, nor qualified to, detect hazardous waste or property contaminated conditions. Expert testing should be done, if so desired”.*

## II. **PROPERTY DATA**

- A. Description of Property – Describe in detail the physical features of the subject property, including land area, road/water frontage, access, topography, type of utility service, timber/wood lot, ground cover, soil type/condition, drainage characteristics and any hazardous waste or property contamination information. Include surveys of the subject property, if available, in the Addendum.
- B. Description of Improvements – Describe the physical details, size and condition of all buildings structures and land improvements, including dams, irrigation systems, wells and fencing. A floor plan of the buildings, showing room sizes, should be included in the Addendum.
- C. Description of Easements, Encroachments, Leases and Permits – Describe any existing easements, encroachments, leases and permits on the subject property and provide names of all current parties of interest. Also describe if the subject property is enrolled in the Land Conservation Program (farmland, forest protection, etc.) or in the Land Grants Program.
- D. Description of Mineral Rights – Identify and discuss the existence of mineral rights on the subject property, including oil and gas, metallic minerals (copper, iron) and non-metallic mineral (sand, gravel) and the effect they have on the valuation of the subject property.
- E. Description of Landlock – If the subject property is landlocked, identify adjoining owners and explain potential access issues. Provide a plat or tax map, identifying adjoining owners and roads.
- F. Zoning – Describe existing zoning, including any land-use restrictions or permitted uses under the current zoning. Verify with the property owner and/or municipal offices any zoning change requests made on the subject property and/or special use permits applied for in the past five (5) years and how each of these may influence values.
- G. Present Use of Property – Describe the existing use of the property. If the present use is different than the use permitted by existing zoning, state the conditions it is permitted.

- H. Ownership, Occupancy and Contact with Property Owners – Provide names/addresses of all current parties of interest, including owners, co-owners, lessees, licensees, easement holders and holders of subsurface rights, etc. A copy of all party of interest documents must be included in the Addendum.

The appraiser must contact the property owner, his/her representative and any other party of interest and offer the opportunity to accompany them on the inspection of the subject property. A statement must be included in the appraisal report that “I offered the owner(s) and his/her designated representative an opportunity to accompany me during the inspection of the property, and he/she accepted or declined”. List the date(s) of inspection and name(s) of all people in attendance at the inspection. If the appraiser is unable to contact the owner, the appraisal report should document dates and what specific attempts were made to set up the inspection.

- I. Sales History – Provide sales date/price on all sales of the subject property in the past five (5) years. Verify the sales data, including sales date, price, recording data, liber, page number, etc. for each sales transaction on the subject property. If you find the subject property has sold, but you can’t verify the sales price, explain what efforts you made to obtain this information. If there have been no sales of the subject property within the last five (5) years, simply state “NONE IN THE PAST 5 YEARS”.
- J. Assessed Value and Taxes – Identify assessed value, state equalized value and taxable value of the subject property. Also include subject property taxes for the current year.
- K. Highest and Best Use – Define and analyze the highest and best use of the subject property and your opinion of the use that would result in the greatest net return on the subject property. If your highest and best use conflicts with existing zoning, a detailed explanation of the reasonable possibility of effecting change must be substantiated through interviews with public zoning officials and/or other governing authorities.

### III. VALUATION ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

- A. **Sales Comparison Approach** – The Sales Comparison Approach MUST be utilized on all DNR appraisal reports. The appraiser should conduct a thorough investigation of the market activity on properties similar to the subject property, utilizing at least three (3) comparable sales. If inadequate market data is available to utilize three (3) comparable sales, the appraiser must discuss his/her attempt to locate market data transactions in the appraisal report.

A comparison grid showing adjustments (expressed in dollars or percentages) is required, along with a detailed explanation of items of dissimilarity and the appraiser’s reasoning for each adjustment.

**NOTE:** *The use of qualitative adjustments (versus quantitative adjustments) MUST receive written approval from the DNR Appraisal Supervisor prior to commencing work on the appraisal report.*

For appraisals of linear corridors, the appraiser should consider comparable sales of other corridors or based on an “across the fence” valuation methodology. Listings and sales to/from governmental agencies can be used for supplemental/support purposed only.

A comparable sales data sheet, showing detailed sales information of each comparable sale must be included in the Addendum. (See “Comparable Sales Data Sheet” in Section V, Addendum for requirements).

A final reconciliation of the unit value, if applicable, must be determined and the reconciled total market value for the subject property under the Sales Comparison Approach must be clearly stated in the appraisal report.

- B. **Cost Approach** – If the subject property is improved and the improvements are new and in good condition, the Cost Approach must be considered. If the appraiser deems this approach unreliable, an explanation must be included in the appraisal report.

When the Cost Approach is utilized, the following analysis and calculations must be detailed in the appraisal report:

1. Value of land, as vacant
2. Replacement or Reproduction Cost (new) of the improvements or buildings
3. Amount of accrued depreciation (physical, functional and economic) with an explanation and justification of each depreciation deduction

After each of these calculations are completed, a grid showing each calculation, and the process utilized to calculate market value, must be included in the appraisal report. A final reconciliation of market value for the subject property under the Cost Approach must be clearly stated in the appraisal report.

- C. **Income Approach** – If the subject property is generating an income, the Income Approach must be considered. If the appraiser deems this approach unreliable, an explanation must be included in the appraisal report.

When the Income Approach is utilized, the following analysis and calculation must be detailed in the appraisal report:

1. Estimated rental rate for the subject property based on comparable rental properties
2. Estimate of vacancy and collections, credit loss and operating expense
3. Estimate of capitalization rate

After each of these calculations are completed, a grid showing each calculation, and the process utilized to calculate market value, must be included in the appraisal report. A final reconciliation of market value for the subject property under the Income Approach must be clearly stated in the appraisal report.

- D. **Development/Subdivision Approach** - The use of the Development/Subdivision Approach is **NOT** allowed on DNR appraisal reports. Any deviation from this requirement **MUST** receive written approval from the DNR Appraisal Supervisor prior to commencing work on the appraisal report.

- E. **Correlation and Final Reconciliation of Market Value** – List your estimates of market value as concluded in your analysis under the Sales Comparison Approach, Cost Approach and Income Approach. Discuss the degree of reliability of each approach, and which approach you feel would be the most reliable to a prudent purchaser of this type of property. Make a conclusion of market value.

After a final reconciliation of market value is determined, the appraisal report must include the following statement:

*“After applying all the applicable approaches to value, and giving due consideration to all factors of value, I conclude the ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE FOR THE SUBJECT PROPERTY is \$\_\_\_\_\_.”*

#### IV. **CERTIFICATION**

Since each DNR appraisal assignment is with an individual, pre-approved Certified General Appraiser (not a company) and because the Certified General Appraiser under contract is the **ONLY** person authorized to analyze the data, make value adjustments and reconcile value conclusions, they are the **ONLY** person authorized to sign the Certification. Non-appraisers are **NEVER** allowed to sign the Certification.

## V. ADDENDUM

The Addendum should include the following documentation:

- A. Photographs of Subject Property – Include location, improvements and other features of subject property. Indicate date photo taken, by whom, and the position it was taken.
- B. Maps – Include various dimensional maps of subject property.
- C. Ownership Documents – Include deeds, leases, licenses and permits on the subject property.
- D. Comparable Sales Data Sheets – Provide a comparable sales data sheet for each comparable utilized and relied upon in the appraisal report AND a comparable sales map, showing each comparable in relation to the location of the subject property. Comparable sales data sheets should include the following information regarding the comparable sale:
  - 1. Photograph
  - 2. Location/Address (include legal description)
  - 3. Tax ID Number
  - 4. Date of Sale
  - 5. Name of Parties on the Last Sales Transaction (Buyer/Seller)
  - 6. Name, Phone Number and Date of Comparable Verification (Verification must be made with buyer/seller or broker)
  - 7. Date of Inspection
  - 8. Sales Price Paid
  - 9. Unit Price Paid (per square foot, acre, front foot)
  - 10. Financing Terms (include any special consideration in the financing)
  - 11. Conditions of Sale
  - 12. Arm's Length Details
  - 13. Exposure Time on Market
  - 14. Physical Description of Land, Improvements, Easements and Mineral Rights, etc.
  - 15. Utilities, Shape, Topography, Ground Cover, Soil Types/Conditions, Road Cover
  - 16. Mineral/Timber Values
  - 17. Assemblage Details, if applicable
  - 18. Buyers Intended Use
  - 19. Zoning and Permitted Uses (include proposed zoning changes, special use permits, proposed site plans)
  - 20. Environmental Items (include on-site tanks, hazardous materials, contaminants)
  - 21. Highest and Best Use at Time of Sale
  - 22. Appraiser's Remarks, when applicable
  - 23. Ownership Documents (include deeds, leases, licenses, permits, etc.)
- E. Correspondence
- F. Other Documentation Deemed Appropriate
- G. Copy of DNR Fee Appraisal Request (FAR)
- H. Copy of DNR Appraisal Site Inspection Environmental Checklist
- I. Copy of Appraiser's E & O Insurance
- J. Appraiser's Resume
- K. Appraiser's Appraisal License



## Land disposals

- The DNR will consider divesting of state-managed lands if the transaction enhances the management of natural resources or provides other public benefits. Each application that is submitted seeking to acquire state land is evaluated on its own merits.
- Similar to exchange proposals, all private landowner-initiated disposal proposals are reviewed through the Land Transaction Application process.
- DNR also routinely reviews state land ownership to determine if lands are assisting in accomplishing the DNR mission and those parcels that are determined to not meet these criteria are recommended for disposal.
- In general, the DNR will only consider the direct sale of state-managed land to an individual under the following circumstances:
  - To resolve a long-term trespass of structures or infrastructure on state-managed land where it has been determined that a sale of the land would be in the best interest of the public.
  - The state-managed land does not have any legal or physical access and the surrounding property is entirely owned by one individual landowner.
- All other parcels of state land that are determined to be surplus are sold via public auction.
- In order for a parcel of state-managed land to be declared surplus, by statute the DNR must consider all of the following:
  - Whether the sale will not materially diminish the quality or utility of other state-managed public lands adjoining the land to be sold.
  - Whether the sale is in the best interest of this state, giving due regard to the variety, use, and quantity of lands then under the control of the DNR.
  - Whether the sale will resolve an inadvertent trespass.
  - Whether the sale will promote the development of the forestry or forest products industry or the mineral extraction and utilization industry or other economic activity in this state.



# LAND TRANSACTION APPLICATION - PURCHASE

By authority of Part 21 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended.

<b>DNR Cashier's Use Only (LTA)</b>

This application provides the opportunity to propose a purchase of State-owned land.

Please provide a full and complete legal description or identify the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parcel ID Number of the lands you desire to purchase. A survey may be required. **Attach map(s)** and include additional pages, if necessary. Complete all requested information and sign and date on page 2. Be advised that direct sales often are only granted to resolve longstanding trespass issues and/or on landlocked parcels where the applicant is the only abutting owner.

Payment of \$300 (for State-owned land totaling 300 acres or less) must accompany this application. Please enclose a check or money order made payable to "State of Michigan." For State-owned land totaling more than 300 acres, a reasonable fee will be charged (based on the complexity of the application) and the applicant will be notified of this fee. Applications will NOT be reviewed without payment.

You will be notified if the application is complete or if additional information is required within 60 days after the application is received. If additional information or an appraisal is required, the application will not be deemed complete until all requested information and/or payment for the appraisal is received by the DNR.

Public Act 238 of 2018 requires once an application is deemed complete, the DNR has six (6) months to approve or deny the application, unless the applicant and the DNR agree to waive the requirement. (See acknowledgment on page 2)

APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Name of Applicant(s)	Organization
Mailing Address	Telephone Number (including area code)
City, State, ZIP	E-mail Address

DESIRED STATE-OWNED LAND					
DNR Parcel ID Number	County	Township Name	Section(s)	Town	Range

Legal Description:

Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete page 2.**

Please answer the following questions. Attach additional pages, if necessary.

<b>DESIRED STATE-OWNED LAND</b>	
Does the desired State-owned land adjoin your present ownership? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Explain your use for the desired State-owned land:	
It is recommended you discuss the proposal with the local DNR land manager prior to submitting this application. Have you discussed this proposal with the local DNR land manager? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Provide the name of the local DNR land manager and summarize ANY comments:	
I have received the "Land Exchanges and Sales Guide". <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>PURCHASE APPLICATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>	
By checking these boxes and signing this application, I/we understand and acknowledge:	
<input type="checkbox"/> If an appraisal is deemed necessary for the land requested, I/we will be responsible for all associated costs the DNR incurs in obtaining an appraisal. Payment for the appraisal costs must be received within 21 days from the date of the appraisal invoice or the application will be denied.	
<input type="checkbox"/> I/we have ten (10) calendar days to accept the sales price upon notification by the DNR or I/we waive the requirement that the DNR has six (6) months to approve or deny the application as required by Public Act 238 of 2018.	
<input type="checkbox"/> The submission of this application and application materials does not guarantee approval that this land purchase will be granted.	
<input type="checkbox"/> If my application is denied, no refund or reimbursement will be made for the expenses incurred in submitting the application, including appraisals, surveys and/or any other application materials.	
<i>I certify that all information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.</i>	
_____	_____
<i>Signature of Applicant(s)</i>	<i>Date</i>

*If you have questions regarding the completion of this Application, please contact Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Real Estate Services Section, telephone 517-284-5941.*

*Mail completed application and check, or money order made payable to the "State of Michigan" to:*

**CASHIER'S OFFICE  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30451  
LANSING MI 48909-7951**

## **DNR's Mineral Purchase application program**

The DNR reviews mineral purchase applications to reunify severed mineral rights owned by the state of Michigan with privately owned surface rights.



Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Minerals Management Section

# APPLICATION TO PURCHASE STATE-OWNED MINERALS AND ALLIED RIGHTS

By authority of Part 5, Section 503., Act 451 of 1994, as amended.

DNR Cashier's Use Only				
DEPT 751	APPROP U99920	FUND 1130	UNIT 7900	DEPT REV 1789

**NOTE:** Only the current owner of the surface rights may purchase the state-owned minerals and allied rights. This application must be completed in its entirety, signed by the surface owner(s), and submitted to the address listed below. A **nonrefundable** application review fee of \$400 must be included with the application. Additional fees may be charged based on geologic value as determined by a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Geologist, excess parcel fee (\$25 per parcel after the first 5 parcels) and extra deed fee (\$100 per deed). If a DNR Geologist determines the minerals under application require an independent mineral evaluation, the applicant must provide a mineral evaluation at their expense to proceed with the application. Mineral components will not be sold separately, and conveyance of high value minerals is at the discretion of the DNR. **There is no guarantee the DNR will be able to release the requested mineral rights.**

Rights to aboriginal antiquities on tax-reverted land may only be released for platted property (i.e., lots in a recorded subdivision) pursuant to Part 761, Aboriginal Records and Antiquities, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.

**Minerals Management Section highly recommends surface owners fill out a Surface Owner Inquiry to Purchase State-Owned Minerals and Allied Rights form (PR4331-1) PRIOR TO SUBMITTING an Application to Purchase State-Owned Minerals and Allied Rights form (PR4311). Both forms are located on the DNR website: [www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/minerals](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/minerals).**

Please contact the DNR, Minerals Management Section at [DNR-LeaseManagement@michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-LeaseManagement@michigan.gov) for further information.

APPLICANT	
Current Surface Owner Name	Date of Application
Street Address	Telephone
City, State, ZIP	Email
Contact Person (If different than above)	Contact Telephone

**Applicant must attach proof of current surface ownership (i.e., copy of recorded deed).  
The DNR reserves the right to request any proof of ownership which it deems necessary.**

Specify the name and address of the party to whom the deed, if approved, is to be **MAILED** to:

Name
Street Address
City, State, ZIP

Make check or money order payable to “State of Michigan” and mail with completed application to:

**CASHIER'S OFFICE  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30451  
LANSING MI 48909-7951**

## COMPLETION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION REQUIRED

APPLICATION IS HEREBY MADE TO PURCHASE STATE-OWNED MINERALS AND ALLIED RIGHTS (i.e., ingress and egress to watercourses and aboriginal antiquities)

Legal description of state-owned rights being applied for (if description is exactly as listed on deed, please write "See attached deed"):

Item Number (if applicable)	County	Township	Range	Section	Legal Description

**Include the following with this completed application:**

- Proof of surface ownership (copy of recorded deed).
- Complete legal description of parcel(s) you are applying for (must match the parcel description listed on deed).
- \$400 application fee payable to the "State of Michigan."
- If you are not the surface owner, provide a copy of your Power of Attorney or other legal document evidencing you are authorized to sign on behalf of the surface owner.
- If requested rights fall within a recorded subdivision, must include Professional survey, showing property boundaries; physical address of the property, and County Tax Parcel Id(s).

Current Surface Owner(s) Signature(s):			
Signature	Date	Signature	Date
Printed Name		Printed Name	

## DNR NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunities for employment and access to Michigan's natural resources. Both State and Federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, height, weight, or marital status under the U.S. Civil Rights Acts of 1964 as amended (MI PA 453 and MI PA 220, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act).

If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire additional information, please write: Human Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 30473, Lansing MI 48909, or Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Cadillac Place, 3054 West Grand Blvd, Suite 3-600, Detroit, MI 48202.

This information is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Michigan Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act P.A. 220 of 1976.

For information or assistance on this publication, contact, Minerals Management Section, Finance and Operations Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30452, Lansing, MI 48909.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

## **Appendix K: Ownership rights**

### **Surface rights**

- The DNR is responsible for managing approximately 4.6 million acres of surface ownership across the state.
- Surface ownership includes state forests, state game and wildlife areas, state parks and recreation areas, boating access sites, public water access sites, trails and DNR facilities.

### **Mineral rights**

- The DNR is responsible for managing 6.4 million acres of state-managed mineral rights in a manner that protects and enhances the lands for current and future generations. Minerals are developed in a safe way in order to optimize revenue consistent with public interest while also protecting natural resource values.
- Revenue from the royalties, leases and sales of state-managed mineral rights is deposited into the State Park Endowment Fund, which funds state park operations, maintenance and land acquisition. A percentage of the revenue is also deposited into a corpus fund.
- Historically, the revenue from state-managed minerals was deposited into the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, which provided grants for the acquisition, development and maintenance of local and state parks and other recreational areas, resulting in a wide range of recreational opportunities and access to Michigan's forests, trails, waterways and beaches.
- The inclusion of mineral rights when acquiring new state land is a priority, not only to provide revenue through leasing, but also to maintain and protect the natural resources found on the surface.

### **Conservation easements**

- Conservation easements are a permanent right in land that protects the conservation values of the land in perpetuity while it remains privately owned.
- Although the rights that are acquired through a conservation easement vary by easement, the rights acquired typically include development rights, which prevents the landowner from constructing buildings on the property and therefore protects the conservation values on the land.
- The DNR also holds working forest conservation easements, which in addition to extinguishing the development rights, also requires the private landowner to manage the timber on the property in a sustainable manner according to an approved forest management plan.
- Most conservation easements held by the DNR require, at a minimum, nonmotorized public access and therefore expand recreational opportunities without the state owning the land. This protects the values of the surface owner while providing a benefit to the citizens of the state.

- Some conservation easements held by DNR do not include public access and are primarily for the purposes of resource protection.
- The DNR currently holds conservation easements on more than 153,600 acres of land stretching across both peninsulas.
- While conservation easements are a useful tool for achieving the DNR's mission to protect natural resources without the need for the DNR to own the land, there is a requirement to appropriately steward and enforce those conservation easements.

### **Great Lakes bottomlands**

- Michigan's Submerged Lands Program began in 1955 with the passage of the Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act, 1955 PA 247, as amended, which is now incorporated as Part 325, Great Lakes Submerged Lands, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA), 1994 PA 451, as amended.
- The state owns 25 million acres of bottomlands, which are regulated by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.
- Both state and federal law require the state to manage and protect the submerged cultural resources lying on the bottomlands of the Great Lakes. These resources potentially range from prehistoric Native American village sites to shipwrecks that can be found anywhere from shallow waters to the deep trenches of the Great Lakes.

### **Leases**

- Leasing state-managed land is a tool that the DNR uses to carry out the department mission by partnering with other entities to help manage state-owned land.
- Conversely, the DNR also manages land through a lease of land that is not owned by the state in order to carry out the department mission.
- When the DNR is the lessor, the following apply:
  - Leases DNR-managed land to local units of government to provide outdoor public recreation or natural resources management.
  - Local unit of government is responsible for operation and maintenance.
- When the DNR is the lessee, the following apply:
  - Leased from another agency or landowner to provide outdoor public recreation or natural resources management.
  - DNR is responsible for operation and maintenance.



## **Trail easements**

- The DNR often acquires easements across private property for public recreational trail use when the private property is located between blocks of state ownership in order to eliminate the need to locate trails within the right-of-way of a road.
- Trails often cross several private land ownerships resulting in the need for trail easements to secure the trail right-of-way for public recreational use.
- Securing permanent trail easements ensures trail connectivity and reduces the need to reroute the trail as landowners change over time.

## **Other rights in land**

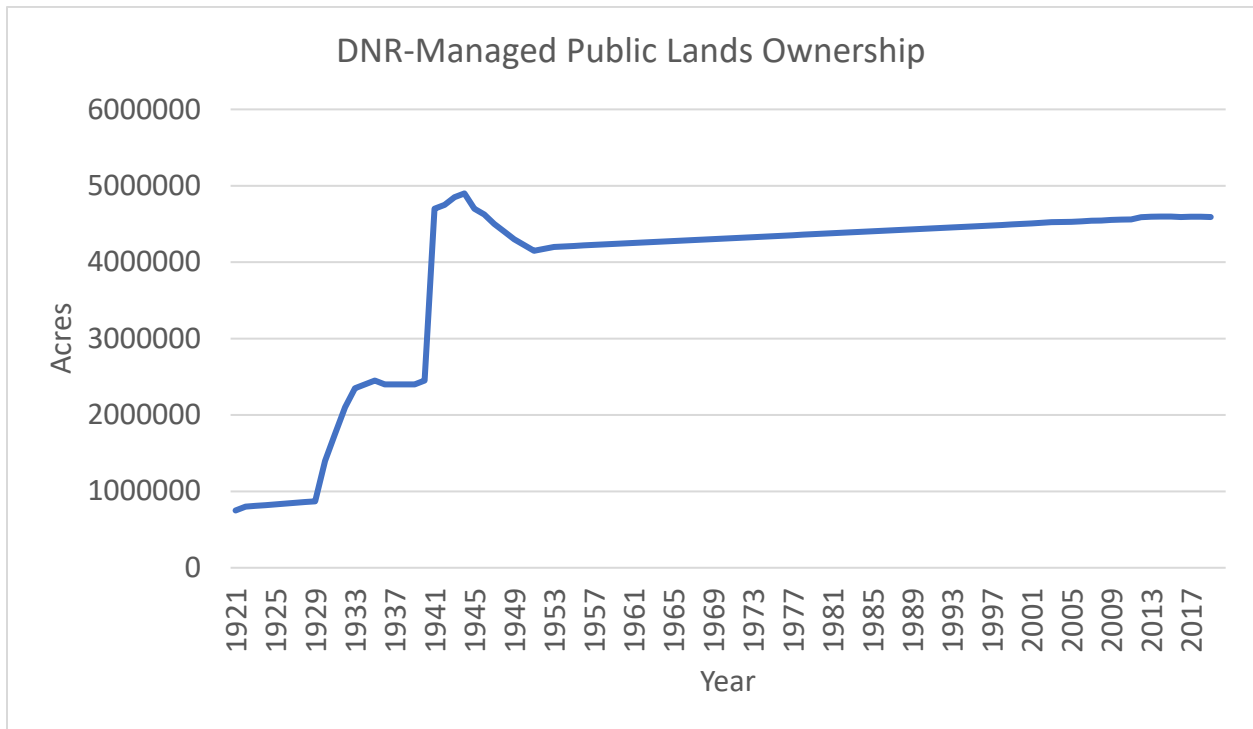
- The DNR holds other rights in land in certain situations as a means of fulfilling its mission. These range from access easements to timber and hunting rights to restrictive covenants to deed restrictions.
- While holding other rights, such as these, may assist the DNR with meeting the mission of land protection, they still require department administration, oversight, stewardship, and monitoring to assure those rights are protected.
- In many instances simply owning the land in fee, especially within dedicated project boundaries, is preferable due to ease and efficiency of management and administration.

## Appendix L: Land ownership history and trends

The following graphs reflect current and historic land ownership trends with the DNR. Only acreage parcels are represented.

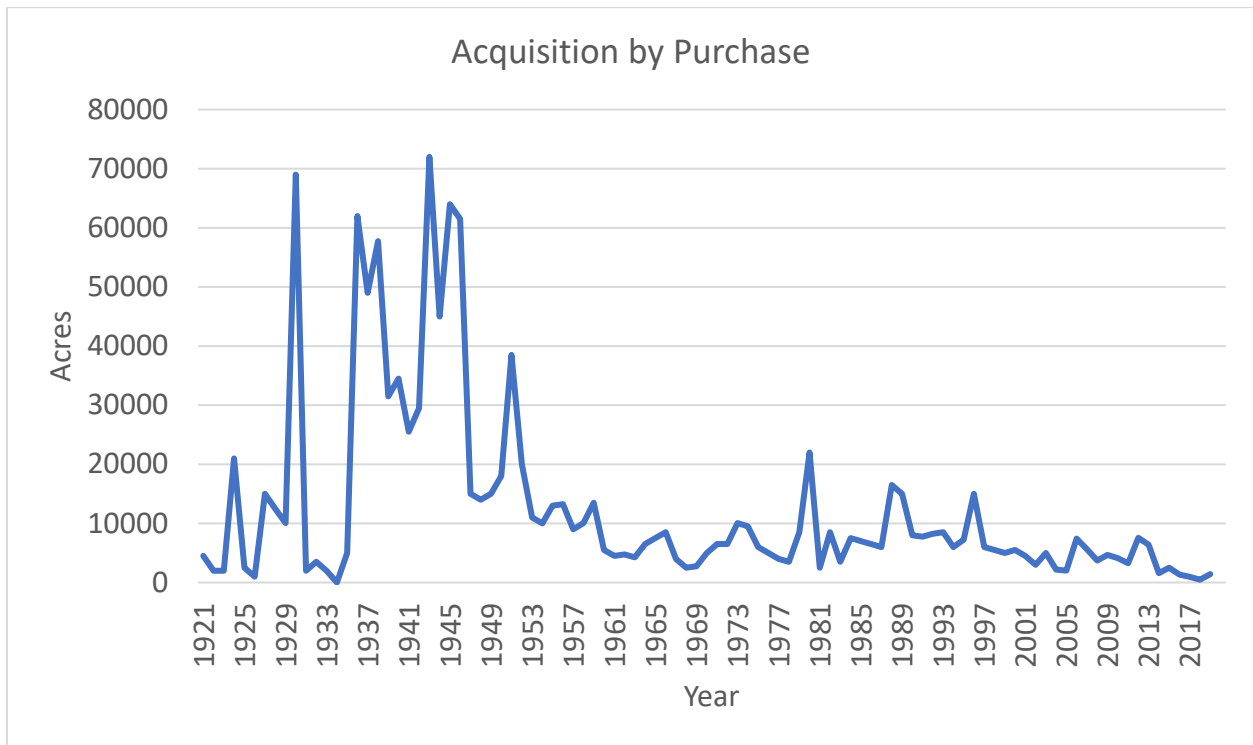
### Overall DNR-managed public lands ownership (1921 – present)

This graph shows DNR land ownership from 1921 to present.



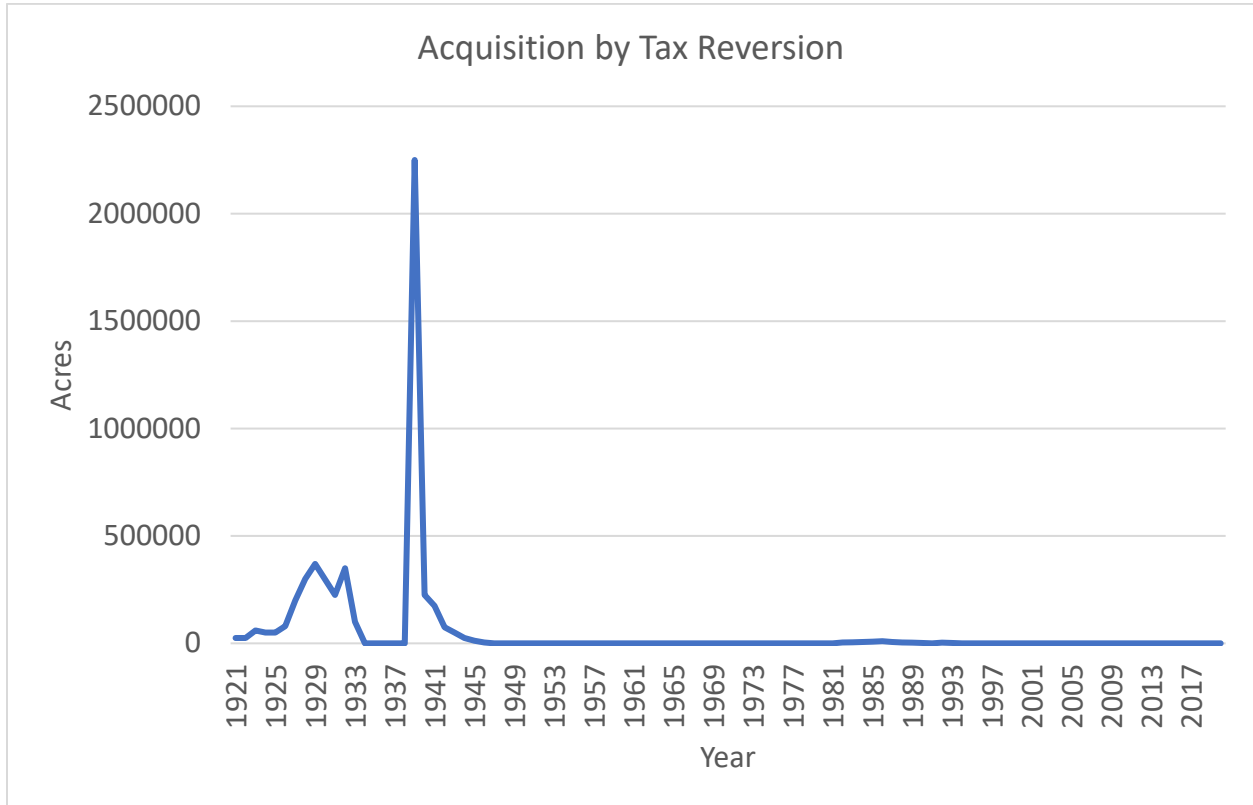
### Acquisition by purchase (1921 – present)

This graph shows the total number of acres the DNR acquired via land purchase from 1921 to present.



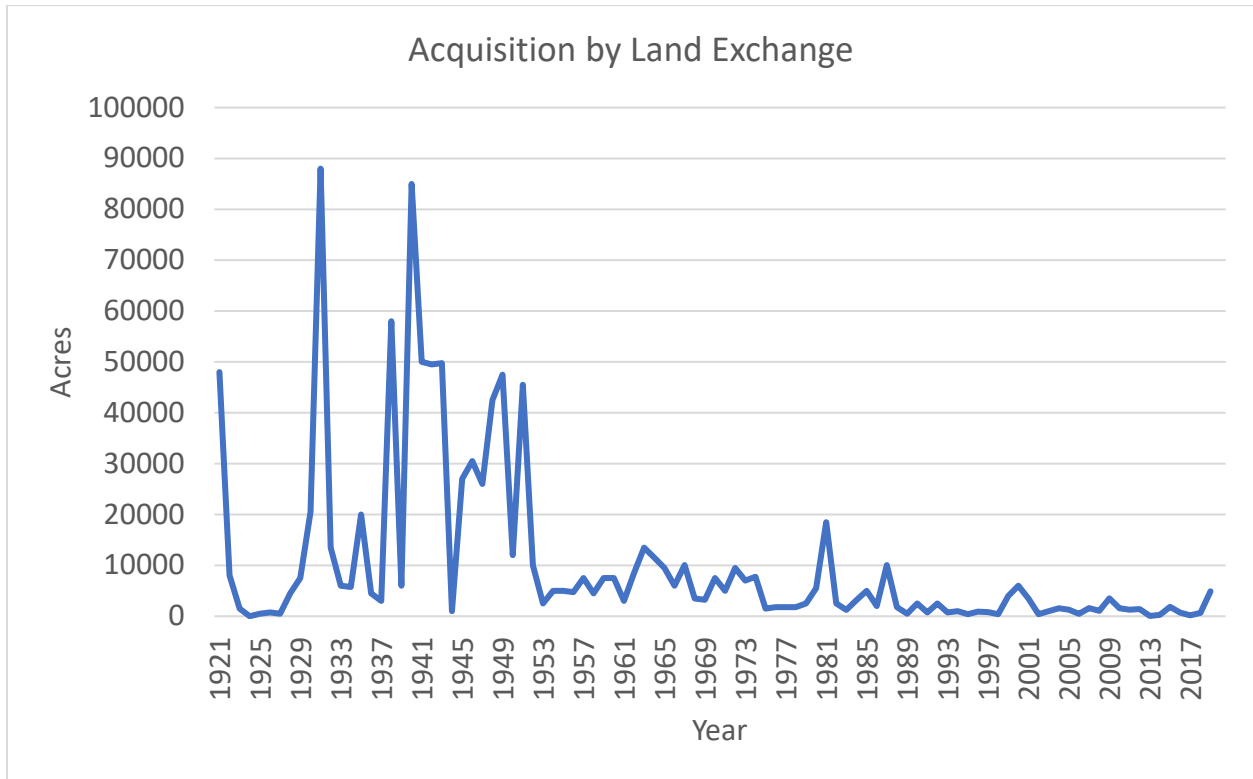
### Acquisition by tax reversion (1921 – present)

This graph shows the total number of acres the DNR acquired via tax reversion from 1921 to present. Beginning in 2002, the DNR was no longer the recipient of tax reverted lands.



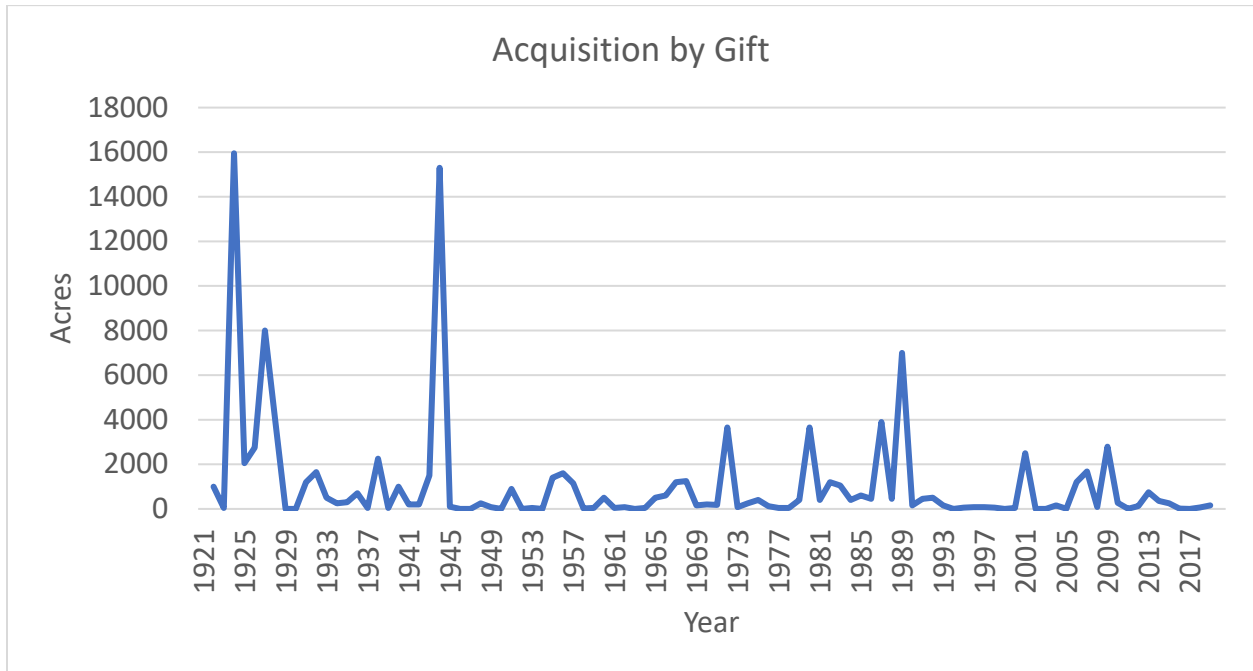
### Acquisition by land exchange (1921 – present)

This graph shows the total number of acres the DNR acquired via land exchange from 1921 to present.



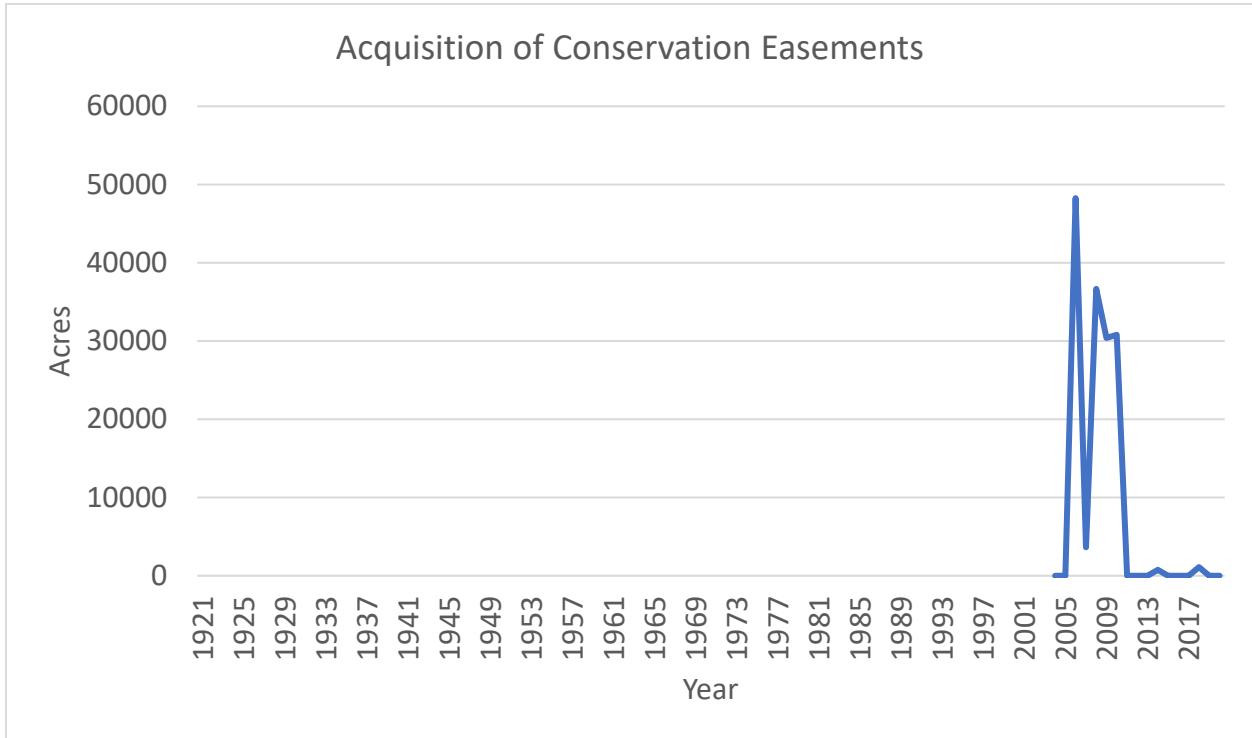
### Acquisition by gift (1921 – present)

This graph shows the total number of acres the DNR acquired via a gift of land from 1921 to present.



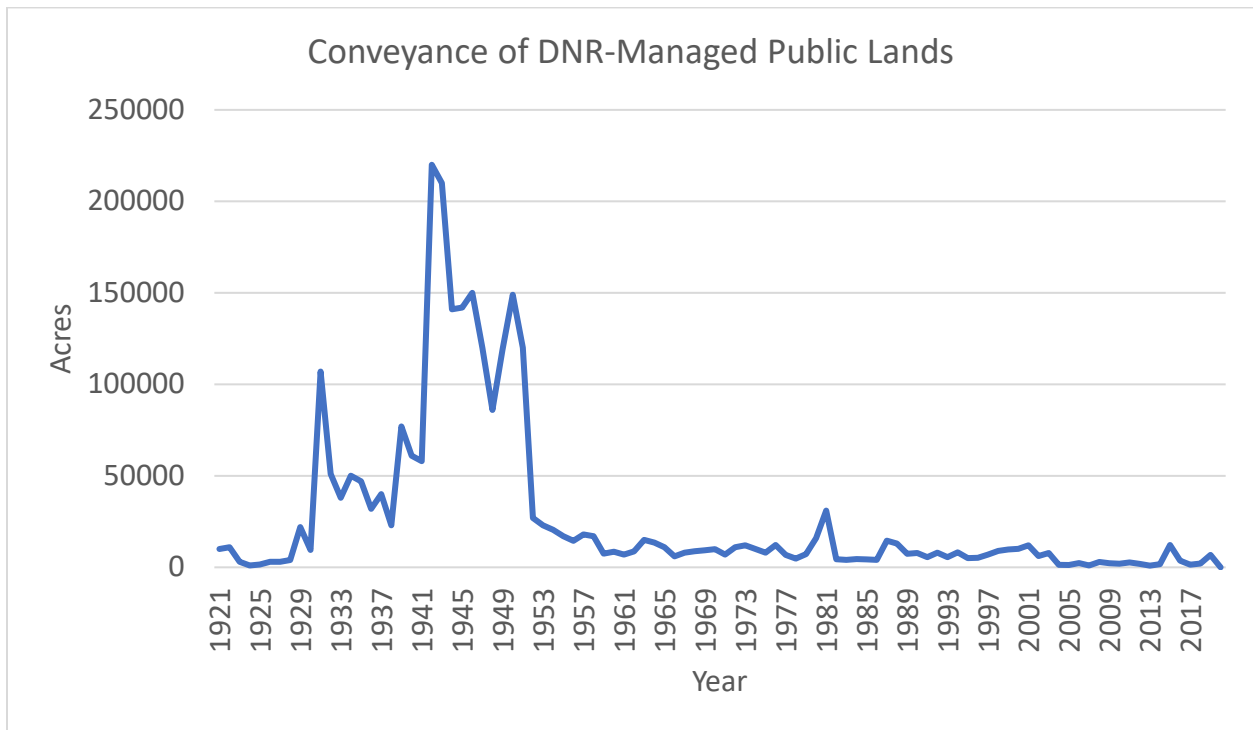
### Acquisition of conservation easements (1921 – present)

This graph shows the total number of acres the DNR acquired a conservation easement over from 1921 to present. Conservation easements are an ownership interest which typically restrict development rights and allow for public access to the land.



### Conveyance of DNR-managed public lands (1921 – present)

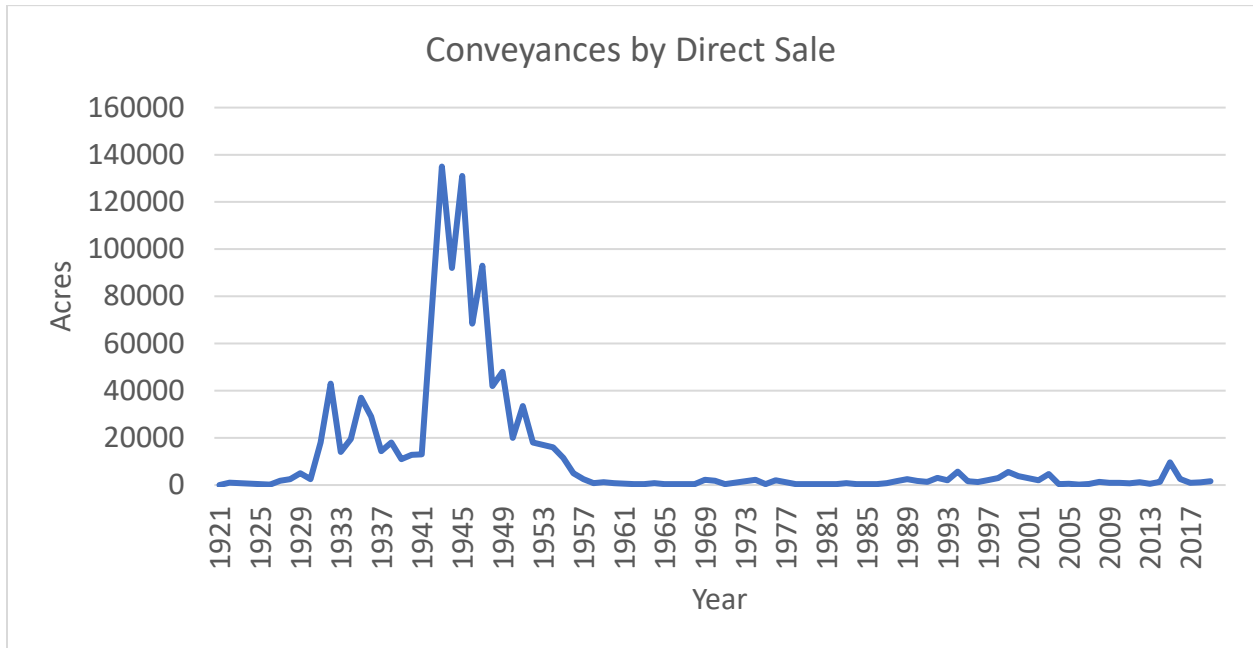
This graph shows the total number of acres the DNR conveyed from 1921 to present.





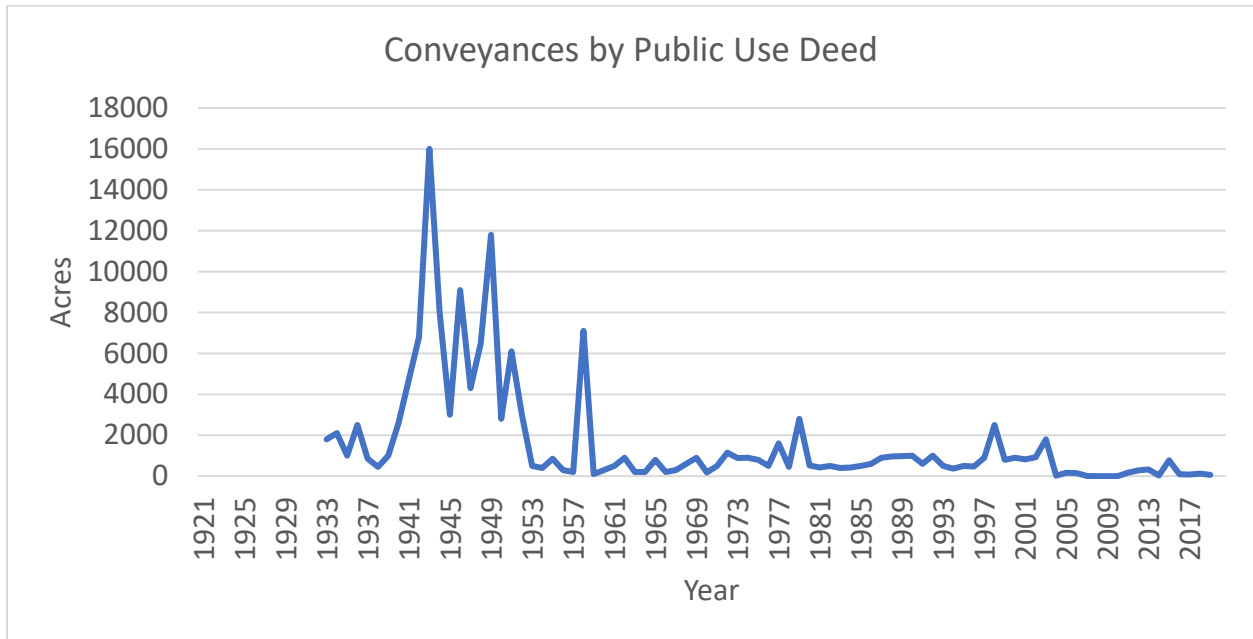
### Conveyance by direct sale (1921 – present)

This graph shows the total number of acres the DNR sold via a direct sale from 1921 to present. This includes land purchased at DNR land auctions.



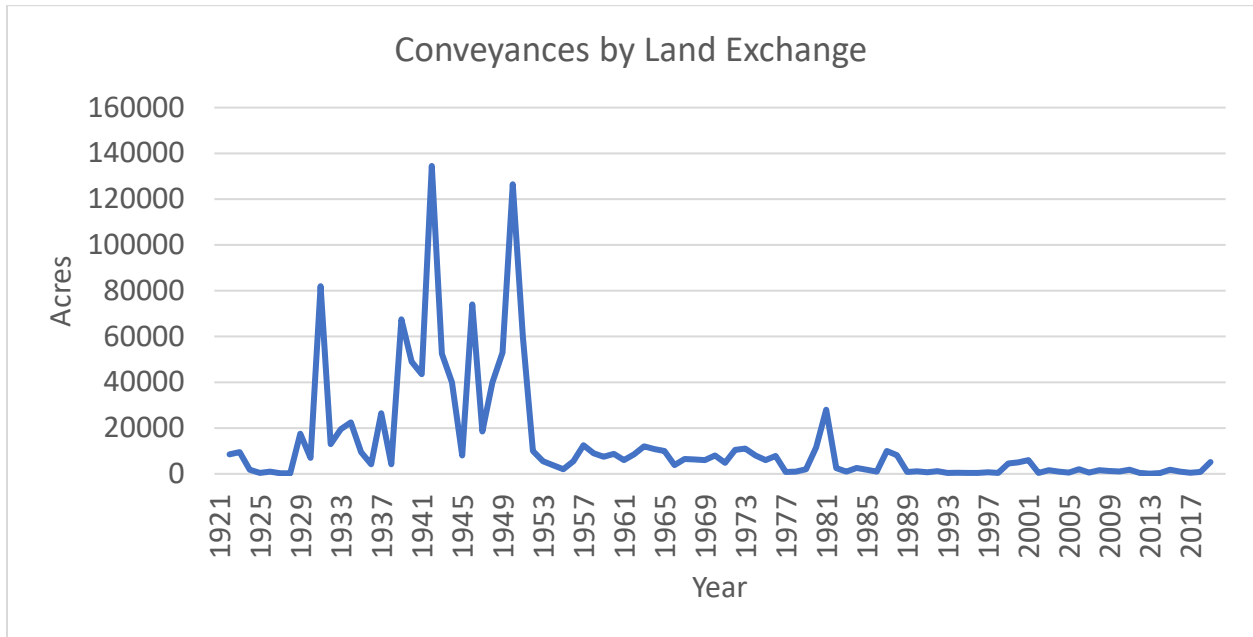
### Conveyance by public use deed (1921 – present)

This graph shows the total number of acres the DNR conveyed to other public agencies via a public use deed from 1921 to present. Public use deeds may or may not include a right for the DNR to retake possession when no longer being used for the intended public purpose.



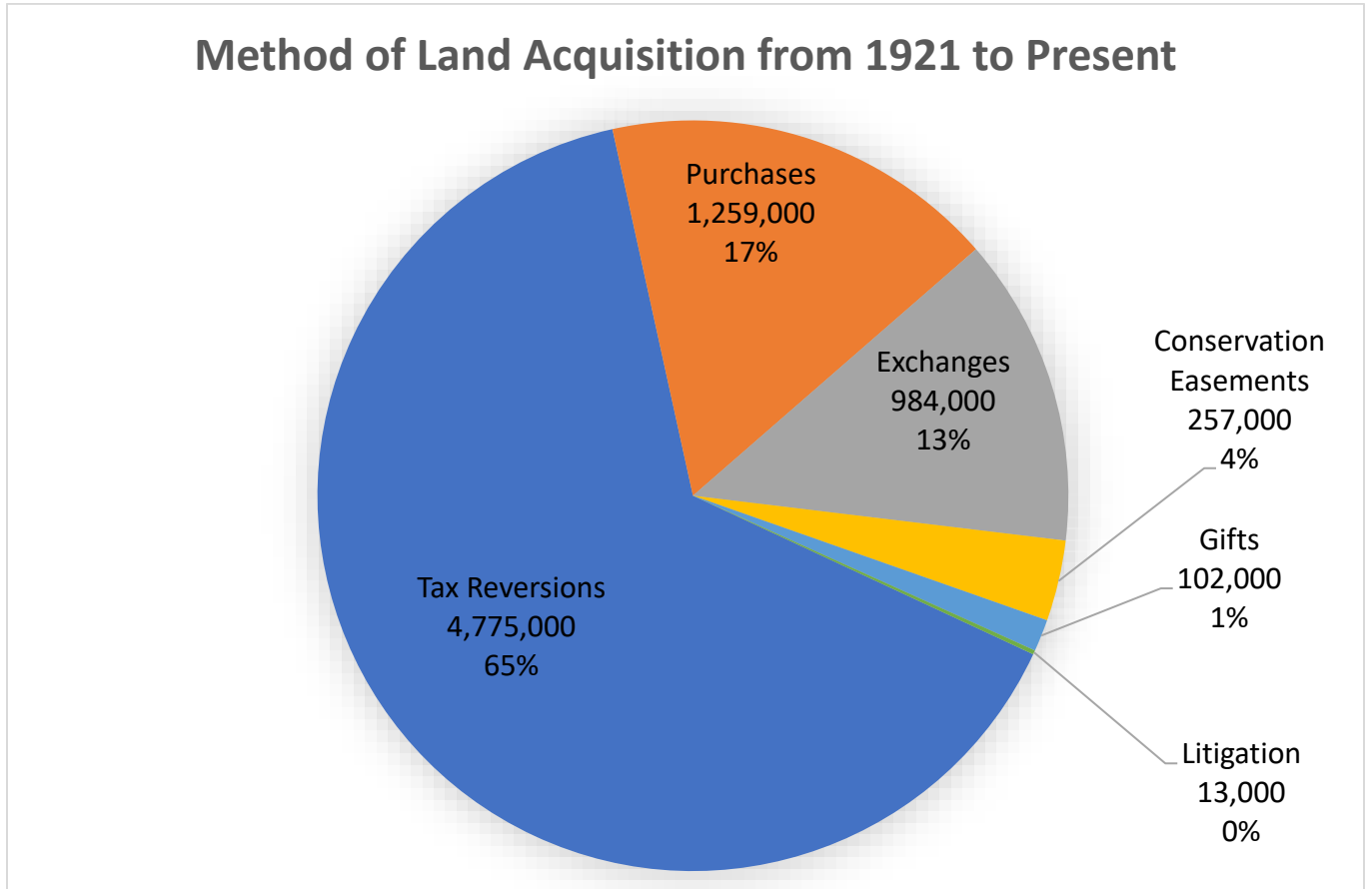
### Conveyance by land exchange (1921 – present)

This graph shows the total number of acres the DNR conveyed via a land exchange from 1921 to present.



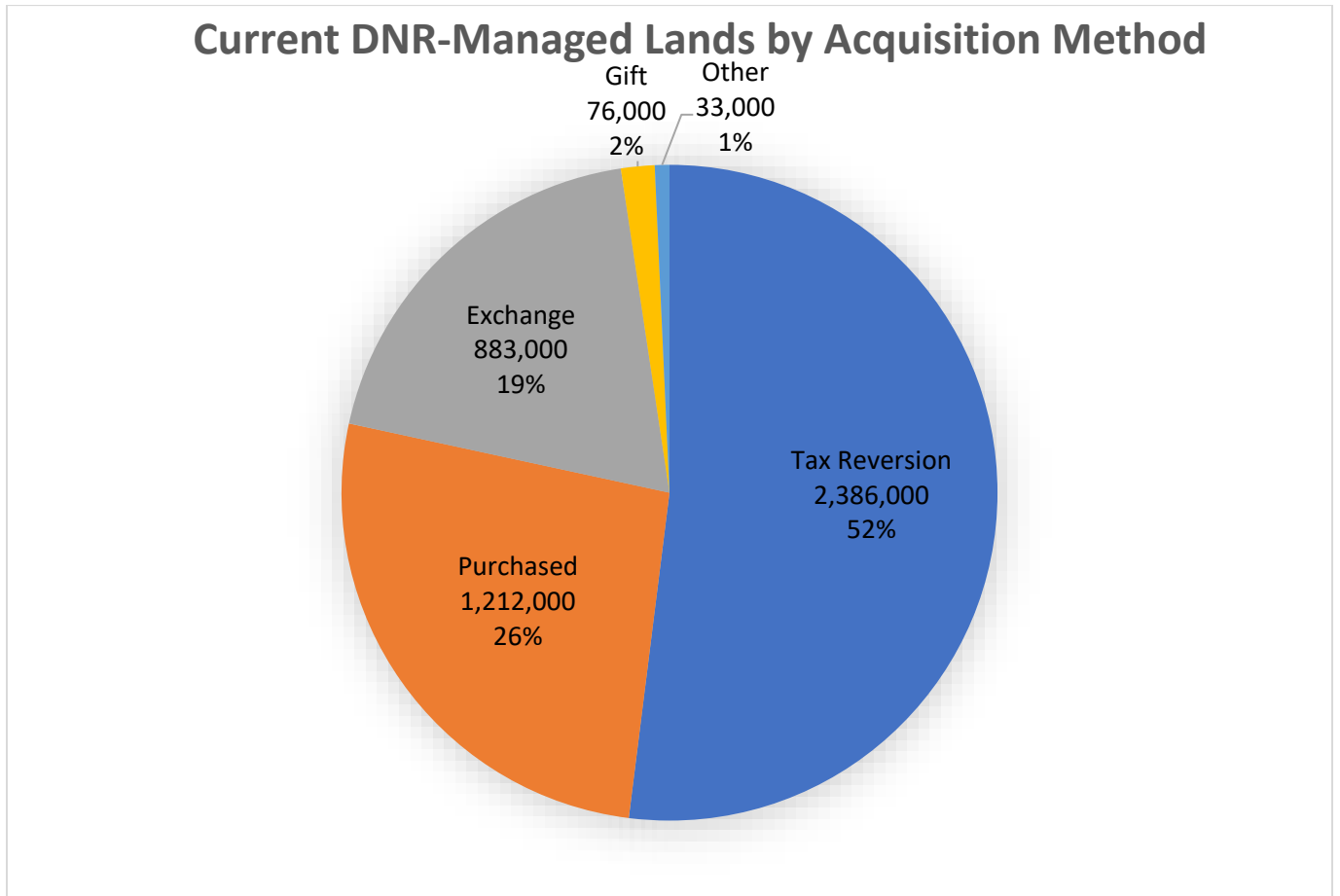
### Method of acquisition (1921 – present)

This chart shows, by acres, how the DNR has acquired land from 1921 to present. Many parcels tax reverted to the Department multiple times. Acreages are rounded to the nearest thousand.



### Current DNR-managed public lands by acquisition method

This chart shows current DNR land ownership by acres and the method by which those lands were acquired. Acreages are rounded to the nearest thousand.



## Appendix M: Legal authorities

<b>Constitutional authorities</b>		<b>Authorities which allow the department to purchase lands</b>
Article IV, Section 52	Conservation and development of natural resources of the state are hereby declared to be of paramount public concern...The legislature shall provide for the protection of the...other natural resources of the state from pollution, impairment or destruction.	
Article IX, Section 35	Creates the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund	The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund is available for the acquisition of land and development of recreation facilities. The Local Public Recreation Facility Fund generated from the sale of the Recreation Passport can be used for the development of local recreation facilities, including trails
<b>Laws</b>		<b>Authorities which allow the department to purchase lands</b>
Public Act (PA) 51 of 1951, Section 10k funds	State Transportation Funds (MTF)	All agencies receiving funds from Act 51 shall spend a minimum of 1% of their MTF when averaged over 10 years on nonmotorized transportation facilities and services. This money can be used only for construction and not for operation or maintenance and includes funding for sidewalks, shared use paths, bike lands, and associated paving marking.
PA 451 of 1994, Part 5	Gives the DNR authority for contacts for taking and storage of mineral products, drilling operations for taking oil and gas, develop outdoor recreation facilities, remove and dispose of forest products, and guard against pollution, impairment or destruction.	

	<p>Gives power to the DNR over the management, control and disposition of all land under the public domain except those managed by other state agencies. Gives the DNR authority to buy, sell, exchange or condemn lands and other property. Manage lands under the control of the DNR to prevent any net decrease in the acreage of such lands that are open to hunting</p>	
PA 451 of 1994, Part 19	<p><b>Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Local Public Recreation Facility Fund</b> – provides that it can be used for the acquisition of land or rights in land for recreation uses or protection of the land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty or for the development of public recreation facilities.</p>	<p>The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund is available for the acquisition of land and development of recreation facilities. The Local Public Recreation Facility Fund generated from the sale of Recreation Passport can be used for the development of local recreation facilities, including trails.</p>
PA 451 of 1994, Part 21	<p>DNR may sell sites to school districts and churches and for public purposes to public education institutions and to the U.S., and to governmental units of the state. DNR may transfer jurisdiction of tax reverted lands for public purposes to any department board or commission of the state without a reverter clause. If there is no reverter clause conveyance or transfers must be at appraised value. Allows for exchanges of land, grant easements, and designate surplus lands. Creates the land facilitation fund where proceeds from the sale of land are deposited for purchase of other lands</p>	
PA 451 of 1994, Article III,	<p>Allows for the designation of wilderness and natural areas and management of those areas.</p>	

Chapter I, Part 351		
PA 451 of 1994, Part 365	Endangered species – provides authority to the DNR to perform acts necessary for the conservation, protection and propagation of endangered species.	
PA 451 of 1994, Part 405	The state assents to use game and fish license fees for no other purposes other than game and fish activities under administration of the department.	
PA 451 of 1994, Part 413	Allows the DNR to restore or remediate habitats or species damaged by invasive species or genetically engineered organisms.	
PA 451 of 1994, Part 415, 417, 419	Provides the DNR with the authority to establish shooting and hunting grounds, hunt game preserves and hunting area controls to protect public safety.	
PA 451 of 1994, Part 421	Allows the DNR to establish dog training areas or acquire lands for dog training areas.	
PA 451 of 1994, Part 435	<b>Hunting and fishing license fees</b> – Allows for the uses of game and fish license dollars to purchase, lease and manage lands for the purpose of propagating and rearing of wildlife and fish and for the establishment and maintenance of game refuges, wildlife sanctuaries and public shooting and fishing grounds and to lease lands to provide for hunter access on private lands.	Hunting and fishing license fees may be used for acquisition of land and for management of game species and fisheries resources.
PA 451 of 1994, Subchapter 4, Part 511	The DNR shall establish and maintain commercial forests.	



PA 451 of 1994, Part 525	<b>Harvesting of state forests</b> – The DNR shall manage the state forest in a manner that is consistent with the principle of sustainable forestry.	Allows for the harvest of timber off state lands and the use of those resources to manage timber resources on state lands.
PA 451 of 1994, Part 711	<b>Recreation Improvement Fund</b>	Dedicated revenues from state gas tax are used for maintenance and development of recreation trails
PA 451 of 1994, Part 723	The DNR shall create a state system of trails and may accept gifts and grants in land, rights of ways or other property to establish trails.	
PA 451 of 1994, Part 741	<b>State Parks</b> – The department shall create, maintain, operate, promote and make available for public use and enjoyment a system of state parks to preserve and protect Michigan’s significant natural resources and areas of scenic beauty or historic significance to provide open space for public recreation and to provide an opportunity to understand Michigan’s natural resources and the need to protect and manage those resources. Transfer or sale of state park land over 100 acres required notice to legislature and public hearing.	Revenues received from the sale of Recreation Passport, out-of-state day use passes, camping, and other revenues can be used for the acquisition of land and the development, maintenance and operation of recreation facilities within state parks or facilities where a Recreation Passport is required.
PA 451 of 1994, Part 761	The state reserves the exclusive right and privilege to all aboriginal records and other antiquities including those found on the bottomlands of the Great Lakes.	
PA 451 of 1994, Part 781	<b>Waterways</b> – Provides the power to the DNR to acquire, construct and maintain harbors, channels and facilities including recreation boating access sites for vessels in the state’s navigable waters.	The revenue from boat registrations and the sale of fuel that is deposited into the Waterways Fund can be used to develop, maintain and operate access sites that could be part of a river trail. The Waterways Fund can also be used for the acquisition of land.

PA 451 or 1994, Part 811	<b>Off Road Vehicles</b> – Provides the authority to the DNR to acquire land for establishing ORV routes, trails and areas.	Revenues collected from the sale of off-road vehicle licenses can be used for signage, maintenance, construction and leasing of lands to provide recreation opportunities for off-road vehicles, law enforcement, environmental damage restoration and safety education of ORV enthusiasts.
PA 451 of 1994, Part 821	<b>Snowmobiles</b> – Provides the authority to the DNR to acquire land for establishing snowmobile trails.	Revenues collected from the sale of snowmobile trail permits and snowmobile registrations can be used for signage, maintenance, construction, equipment, law enforcement and purchasing or lease of land to provide recreation opportunities for snowmobiles.
PA 451 of 1994, Part 831	<b>State Forest Recreation Fund</b> – Required the department to develop, operate, maintain and promote an integrated recreation system within the state forest.	The State Forest Recreation Fund can be used for the development, operation, maintenance and promotion of state forest recreation activities.
<b>Federal funds</b>		<b>Authorities which allow the department to purchase lands</b>
23 USC 206	<b>Recreational Trails Program (RTP)</b>	Dedicated revenues from federal gas tax used for maintenance and development of recreation trails. Funds must be distributed to project types to meet an allocation formula identified in the legislation; 30% motorized, 30% nonmotorized and 40% diversified use. Additionally, the program requires an advisory board made up of trail users to meet every fiscal year to provide guidance on the program.
MAP-21 Act	<b>Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP-21)</b>	MAP-21 extends the federal-aid highway program and authorized funding for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) as a set aside of the new Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). MAP-21 also amends the Surface Transportation Program (STP) to allow any projects eligible

		under the RTP to be eligible for STP funds.
LWCF	<b>Land and Water Conservation Fund</b>	The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides funding for the acquisition of land and the development or renovation of outdoor recreation facilities. In the last few funding cycles Michigan has chosen to use LWCF funds for development of outdoor recreation facilities and not for land acquisition.
16 U.S. C. 669-669i (Pittman Robertson)	<b>Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act</b>	Provides funding for the management and restoration of wildlife and provides resources for land acquisition. Funds are raised from an excise tax on ammunition and sporting arms.
16 U.S. C. 777-777l (Dingell Johnson)	<b>Federal Aid in Sportfishing Recreation Act</b>	Provides resources for state fish restoration, management plans and projects including the acquisition of land that provides access to fishing. Funds are raised on an excise tax on fishing equipment.

## Appendix N: Land acquisition funding sources

The DNR uses a variety of funding sources to acquire public lands for a wide array of purposes. The funding sources vary including federal, state, license fees, and private donations. Examples of the primary funding sources used for land acquisition by the DNR include the following:

### Federal

- **Wildlife Sport Fish and Restoration Program:** Formerly known as Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson funding, this program is administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The program works with states to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, their habitats, and the hunting, sport fishing, and recreational boating opportunities they provide. These funds are spent primarily on acquisition, development, and operation of wildlife management areas and support projects that improve and manage aquatic habitats and fisheries resources, protect coastal wetlands, and provide infrastructure to recreational boaters. This program is funded by the excise taxes and import duties on equipment and gear manufactured for purchase by hunters, anglers, boaters, archers, and recreational shooters. These funds are distributed to states based on the land and water area of the state and the number of paid recreational hunting and fishing license holders in each state.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):** Administered by the National Park Service, this program was established in 1964 to fulfill a commitment to safeguard our natural areas, water resources, and cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities. This fund source is unique in that it does not use taxpayer dollars, but instead invests earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing and uses that revenue to fund grants to state and local governments. These grants are used to acquire lands, waters, and interests in lands that are necessary to achieve the natural, cultural, wildlife, and recreation management.
- **Forest Legacy Program (FLP):** Administered by the U.S. Forest Service and funded through the LWCF, the FLP is a nationally competitive grant program that provides funding for the acquisition of land or rights in land to protect environmentally important forests. Michigan can submit up to three projects for consideration each year. Projects compete with other proposals around the country and are scored and prioritized against those projects.

### State

- **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF):** This constitutionally protected fund was established in 1976 and was originally derived from the proceeds received from the leasing, royalties, and sale of state-managed mineral rights. As directed by the Constitution, those proceeds now go to the State Park Endowment Fund. Therefore, the MNRTF is now funded by the

interest earned on the investment of a \$500 million corpus. This fund is used for purposes of acquiring priority lands for resource protection and public outdoor recreation.

- **Land Exchange Facilitation Fund (LEFF):** This fund source is derived from the proceeds that are received from the sale of state-managed lands that were originally acquired through tax reversion. Because these lands came into state ownership due to the non-payment of taxes, it is not unusual for the state to own lands that don't provide a significant natural resource or public recreational benefit. These parcels, that do not contribute to the fulfillment of the DNR's mission, may be sold via public auction. The proceeds from these sales are deposited into LEFF and then made available to the DNR to use in the purchase of priority parcels of land that assist in the consolidation of state ownership, natural resource protection, and the fulfillment of the DNR's mission.

### **License fees**

- **Game and Fish Fund:** This source of funding is derived from the sale of hunting and fishing license fees. These proceeds are used for fisheries and wildlife management, which may include land acquisition for parcels of land that are critical to protecting fisheries or wildlife habitat.
- **State Game Fund:** This source of funding is derived from the sale of hunting license fees. These proceeds are used for wildlife management, which may include land acquisition for parcels of land that are critical to protecting wildlife habitat.
- **Turkey License fees:** This source of funding is derived from the sale of turkey hunting license fees. These proceeds are used for management that benefits wild turkeys, which may include land acquisition for parcels of land that are critical to protecting wild turkey habitat.

### **Private donations:**

- Private donations typically come in two forms:
  - Individuals that gift or donate their property to the DNR for purposes of protecting the property, ensuring sustainable natural resource management, and ensuring public access for recreational purposes.
  - Individuals that gift funding to the DNR for the purposes of assisting in the acquisition of high priority parcels of land for long term protection, sustainable natural resource management, and public access for recreational purposes.

This is not an exhaustive list of the funding sources that are available to the DNR to use for land acquisition, however these are the primary funding sources that are responsible for funding the acquisition of over 75% of the lands that have been purchased by the DNR.

## **Requirements for participation in federal funding programs**

There are many sources of funding that are used to purchase state land for public purposes. All funding sources carry some criteria as to how the land can be used. Three primary sources of funding that include added protections on the acquired lands are part of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR): Revenue generated from the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration (PR) and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration (DJ) acts, and hunting and fishing license fees.

**PR/DJ grant acquired and managed lands:** Many DNR lands which are PR/DJ acquired and/or managed are desirable to a variety of recreation users. Recreational use is not prohibited on PR/DJ purchased land. However, when it does occur, the intensity and frequency cannot interfere with the primary purpose for which the land was acquired. If the US Fish and Wildlife Service determines that the state is not adequately managing the frequency and intensity of recreational use on these lands and if a satisfactory resolution is not achieved, future PR/DJ funding is jeopardized. Since these funds have been significant—approximately \$20 million (PR) and \$13 million (DJ) in 2021—careful management of nonhunting and non-fishing activities is very important.

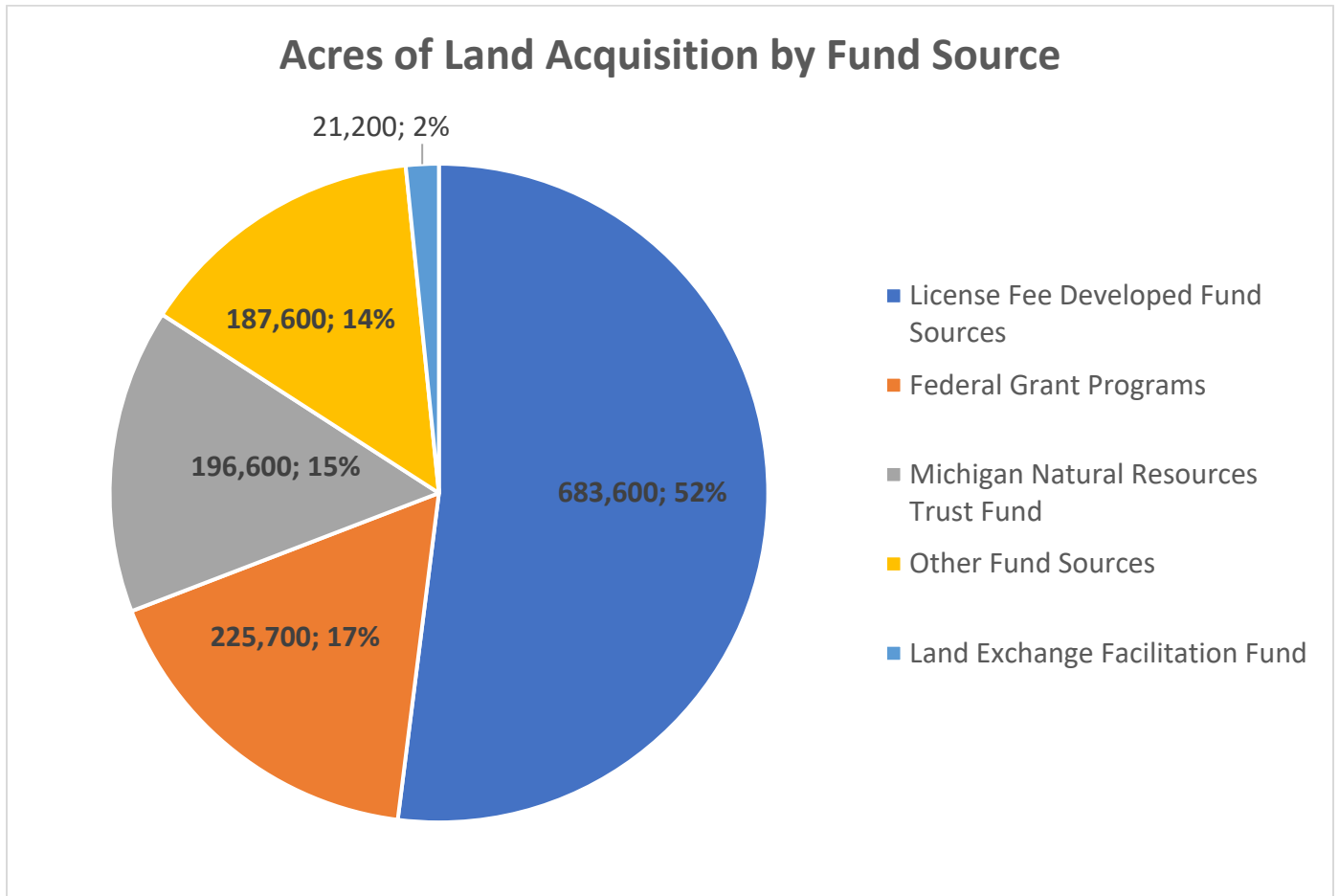
**License fee acquired and managed lands:** Some DNR lands were acquired and/or are managed with hunting and fishing license fees. A provision of the PR (1937) and DJ (1950) Acts is that states must assent to only use state license fees for fish and wildlife services. The state acceptance of these provisions is found in Section 324.40501 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act 451 of 1994 where it states “...funds accruing to this state from license fees paid for by hunters shall not be used for any purpose other than game and fish activities under the administration of the department.”

Additional information can be found at the following websites:

- [FWS.gov/wsfrprograms/Subpages/GrantPrograms/WR/WR\\_Funding.htm](https://www.fws.gov/wsfrprograms/Subpages/GrantPrograms/WR/WR_Funding.htm)
- [FWS.gov/wsfrprograms/Subpages/GrantPrograms/SFR/SFR\\_Funding.htm](https://www.fws.gov/wsfrprograms/Subpages/GrantPrograms/SFR/SFR_Funding.htm)

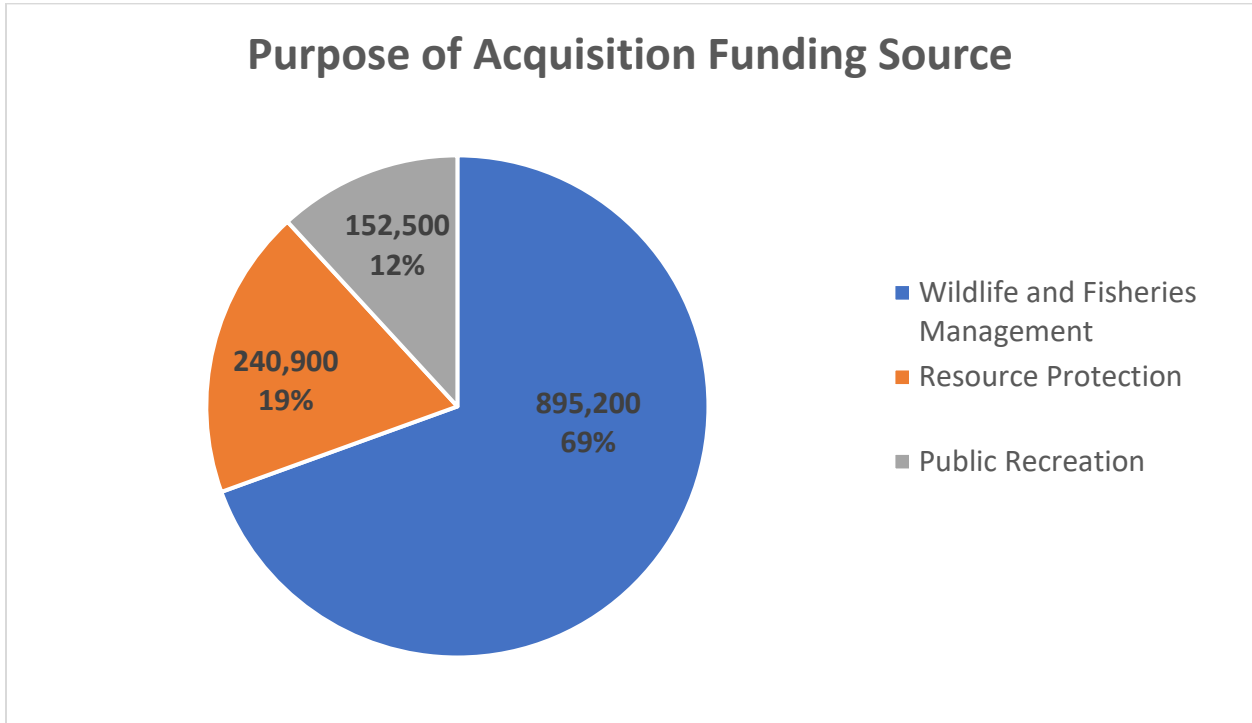
### Current DNR-managed public lands by acquisition fund source

This chart represents the acreage and percentage breakdown by funding sources that were used to purchase DNR-managed public lands.



### Current DNR-managed public lands by purpose of funding source

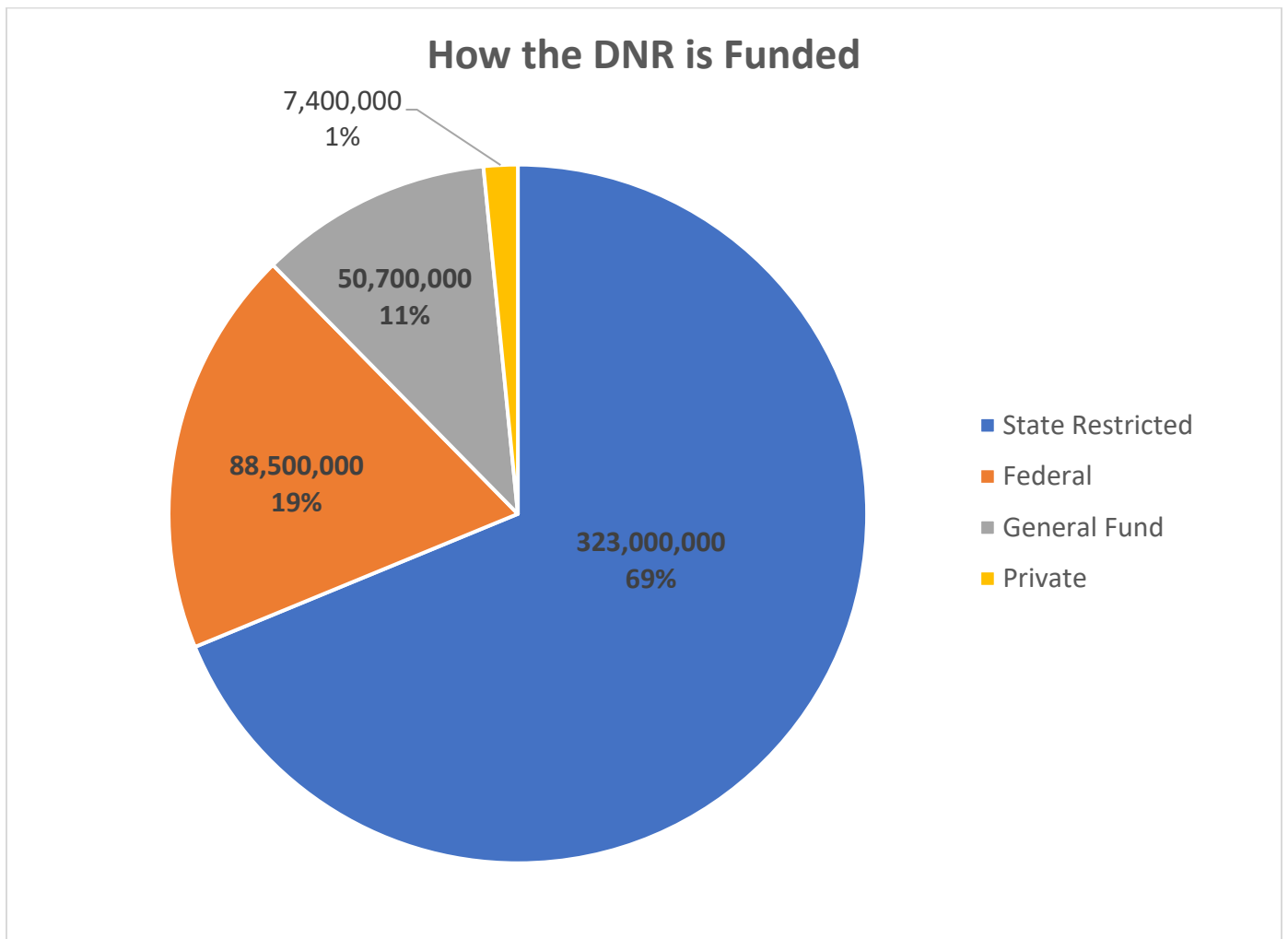
This chart illustrates the breakdown of the purposes of each primary funding source that has been used to acquire DNR-managed public lands.





## How the DNR is funded

Less than 15% of the DNR's budget comes from state taxes (General Fund). The department's bills are paid from about 50 different funds, many of which have unique revenue streams, including user fees paid by those who hunt, fish, snowmobile, camp, harvest timber, ride ORVs or otherwise take part in natural resource-based activities. This chart provides an overview of the primary categories of funding sources that fund DNR operations annually. The fiscal year 2021 original appropriations by fund source total \$469.6 million.



## **Appendix O: Payments in Lieu of Taxes**

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) are statutorily required to be made by the state of Michigan to local units of government for public land that is managed by the DNR and for privately owned land that is retained for long-term timber production.

Lands administered by the DNR are the only state-managed lands that PILT is required to be paid on. No other state agency is responsible for paying PILT on the lands that they administer.

PILT payments are made from line-item appropriations in the Department of Treasury appropriations act and the School Aid Act.

The types of PILT payments are divided into three categories:

### **Swamp and Tax Reverted lands**

PILT paid for lands that were acquired by the DNR due to tax reversion for non-payment of taxes on private lands.

- All land that came to the state due to non-payment of taxes prior to 1999 went to the DNR.
- Following the passage of Act 123 of 1999, lands that revert due to non-payment of taxes now go to the county, rather than the state.
- Prior to 2014, PILT payments made to counties and townships for lands in this category was set at \$2/acre.
- Beginning in 2014, this PILT payment increased to \$3/acre.
- In 2015, the PILT payment increased to \$4/acre.
- Since 2016, the PILT payment now increases 5% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less.
- PILT payments are required to be issued annually by Dec. 1 and are made from the state General Fund.
- Payments are issued to the county and township with 50% disbursed to the county General Fund and 50% disbursed to the Township General Fund.

### **Purchased lands**

- PILT paid for lands that are acquired by the DNR through a purchase using a variety of funding sources.
- Full assessed taxes are paid with the exception of the state education tax.
- Township compiles statements and provides to the county.
- All statements for a county are compiled and forwarded annually to the Department of Treasury by Dec. 15.

- The state treasurer forwards payment in the amount of the assessment to each affected assessing district in a county and township by Feb. 14 each year.
- Assessments for local school districts, intermediate school districts, and community colleges are paid from the School Aid Fund.
- PILT on lands purchased using the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund are paid entirely with Trust Fund dollars.
- All other payments are made from 50% General Fund and 50% restricted funds (for example, the Game and Fish Protection Fund and the Waterways Fund).
- Payments not made in full to the local assessing districts (any delinquent amounts) will be subject to penalty and interest.

### **Commercial Forest Act lands**

- Private lands enrolled in the Commercial Forest Act are not subject to ad valorem general property tax.
- Land enrolled in this program is required to have a forest management plan that includes active management and must be open for non-motorized public use for hunting, fishing and trapping.
- Private landowners are subject to an annual specific tax of \$1.30/acre.
- This rate increases \$0.05 per acre every five years beginning in 2012. The next increase is scheduled for 2022.
- The state pays PILT that matches the annual tax rate of the private landowners, so currently PILT on these lands is \$1.30/acre.
- Department of Treasury issues these payments annually by Dec. 1 to the county and township treasurers.
- This PILT payment is issued from the General Fund.

## Appendix P: Regional map



## Appendix Q: Additional resources for Goal 1 – Protect natural and cultural resources

**Strategy 1 (statewide):** Sustainably manage and protect fish and wildlife habitat, natural communities and areas that are managed for a specific conservation value.

- **Measurable objective:** Use assessment, management and strategic plans adopted by each of the DNR's resource managing divisions to guide and prioritize habitat and natural community management.
  - **Measure:** Tracking of work toward accomplishment of goals identified in adopted DNR plans.

While the land strategy provides the overall direction for the sustainable management and protection of fish and wildlife habitat, natural communities and areas that are managed for a specific conservation value, the individual assessment, management and strategic plans that have been adopted by DNR resource managing divisions are more detailed and tactical. Whether its producing healthy fish to meet annual rearing goals, determining key habitat types for wildlife, surveying archaeological and historic sites, or implementing sustainable timber harvests, these tactical plans drive the work that DNR staff do each day.

The success of this goal and strategy will be measured by tracking the progress of each of the divisions' tactical plans, listed below.

### DNR assessment, management and strategic plans

- [Charting the Course: Fisheries Division's Framework for Managing Aquatic Resources \(2018-2022 strategic plan\)](#)
- [Guiding Principles and Strategies, Wildlife Division Strategic Plan](#)
- [Michigan's Wildlife Action Plan](#)
- [Parks and Recreation Division Strategic Plan \(2017-2022\)](#)
- [Growth Rings: Rooted in the past, growing toward the future: Forest Resources Division Strategic Plan \(2019-2023\)](#)
- [State Forest Management Plan](#)

### Strategy 3 – Invasive species

**Strategy 3 (statewide):** Address priority invasive species.

- **Measurable objective:** Implement actions identified in [Michigan's Terrestrial Invasive Species State Management Plan](#) and [Michigan's Aquatic Invasive Species State Management Plan](#).
  - **Measure:** Sites/acres treated for invasive species on DNR-managed public lands.

Statewide efforts are underway by a variety of state and local groups, trying to address invasive species of all kinds throughout Michigan. For information on these efforts, including reports, management plans and strategies, visit [Michigan.gov/Invasives](https://Michigan.gov/Invasives).

## Appendix R: Additional resources for Goal 2 – Provide access to outdoor public recreation opportunities

**Strategy 1 (statewide):** Provide and maintain diverse recreation experiences while anticipating and responding to trends in outdoor recreation.

- **Measurable objective:** Offer diverse and accessible recreation opportunities to meet and exceed expectations.
  - **Measure:** Maintain 80% satisfaction (based on 2018 Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan survey results), with the quality of public outdoor recreation opportunities.

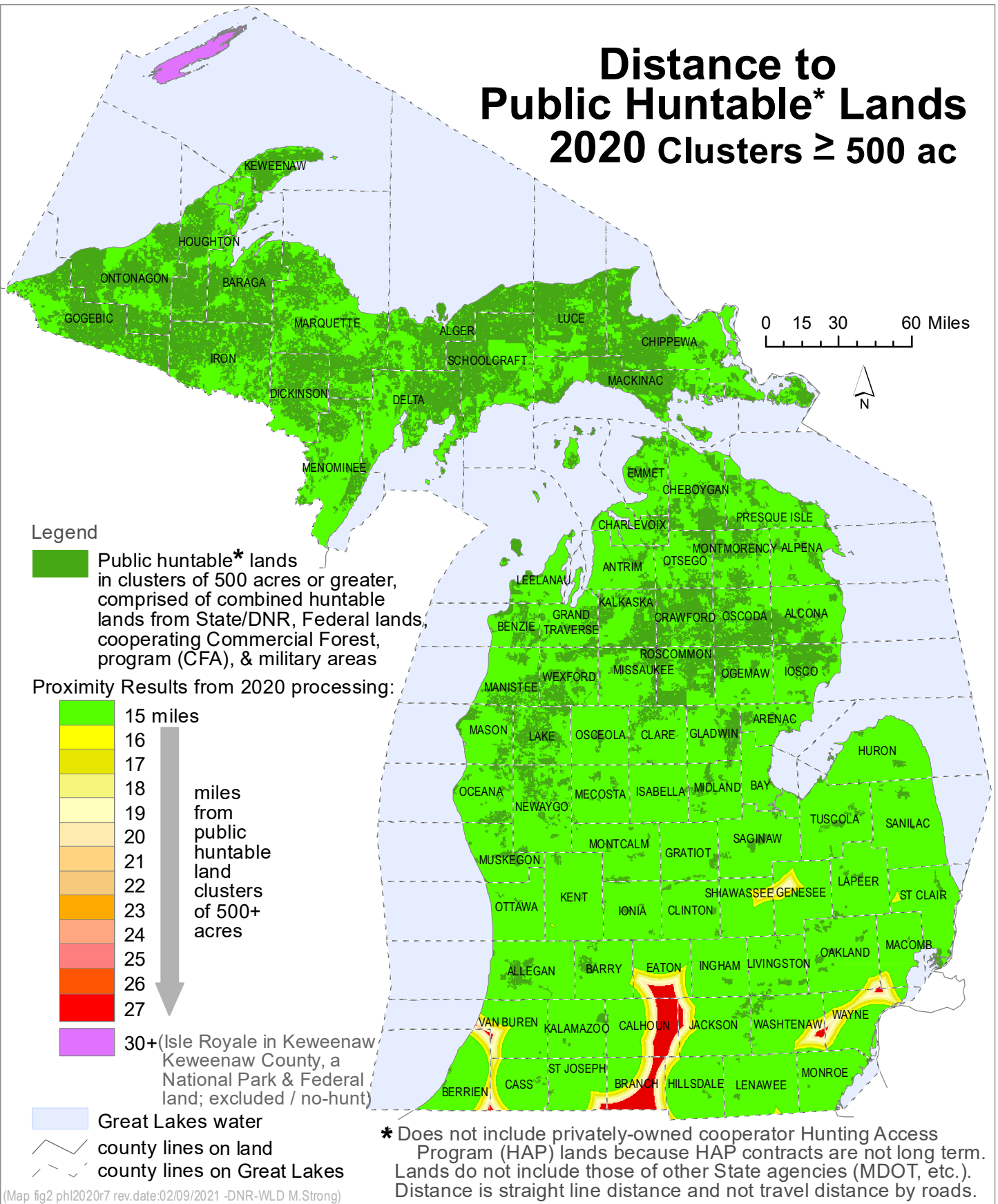
[Michigan's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan](#) is a five-year (2018-2022) strategic plan that shapes investment by the state of Michigan and local communities in priority outdoor recreation infrastructure and programming. It is designed to evaluate ongoing and emerging outdoor recreation trends, needs and issues, and establish priority strategies for achieving outdoor recreation goals. The state and its local outdoor recreation partners use SCORP as an ongoing framework and action plan for guiding their outdoor recreation management and policy decisions.

## Strategy 5 – Cold zone maps

**Strategy 5 (*southern Lower Peninsula*):** In coordination with local units of government, where appropriate, increase public land ownership in areas that have been identified through a DNR analysis as lacking public lands.

- **Measurable objective 1:** Prioritize land acquisition efforts within areas identified as lacking public land ownership to increase opportunities for public outdoor recreation, including hunting, in southern Michigan.
  - **Measure:** Number of acres of land acquired within areas identified as lacking public land ownership.

# Distance to Public Huntable\* Lands 2020 Clusters $\geq$ 500 ac





# Distance to Public Huntable\* Lands

## Change‡ in Southern Lower Peninsula

### Comparison of 2013 and 2020 Results

#### Clusters of 500+ ac and Proximity

\*Does not include privately-owned cooperator Hunting Access Program (HAP) lands because HAP contracts are not long term. Lands do not include those of other State agencies (MDOT, etc.). Distance is straight line distance and not travel distance by roads.

Legend

- Changed areas 2013 to 2020
- Public huntable\* lands in clusters of 500 acres or greater, comprised of combined huntable lands from State / DNR, Federal lands, co-operating Commercial Forest program (CFA) & military lands

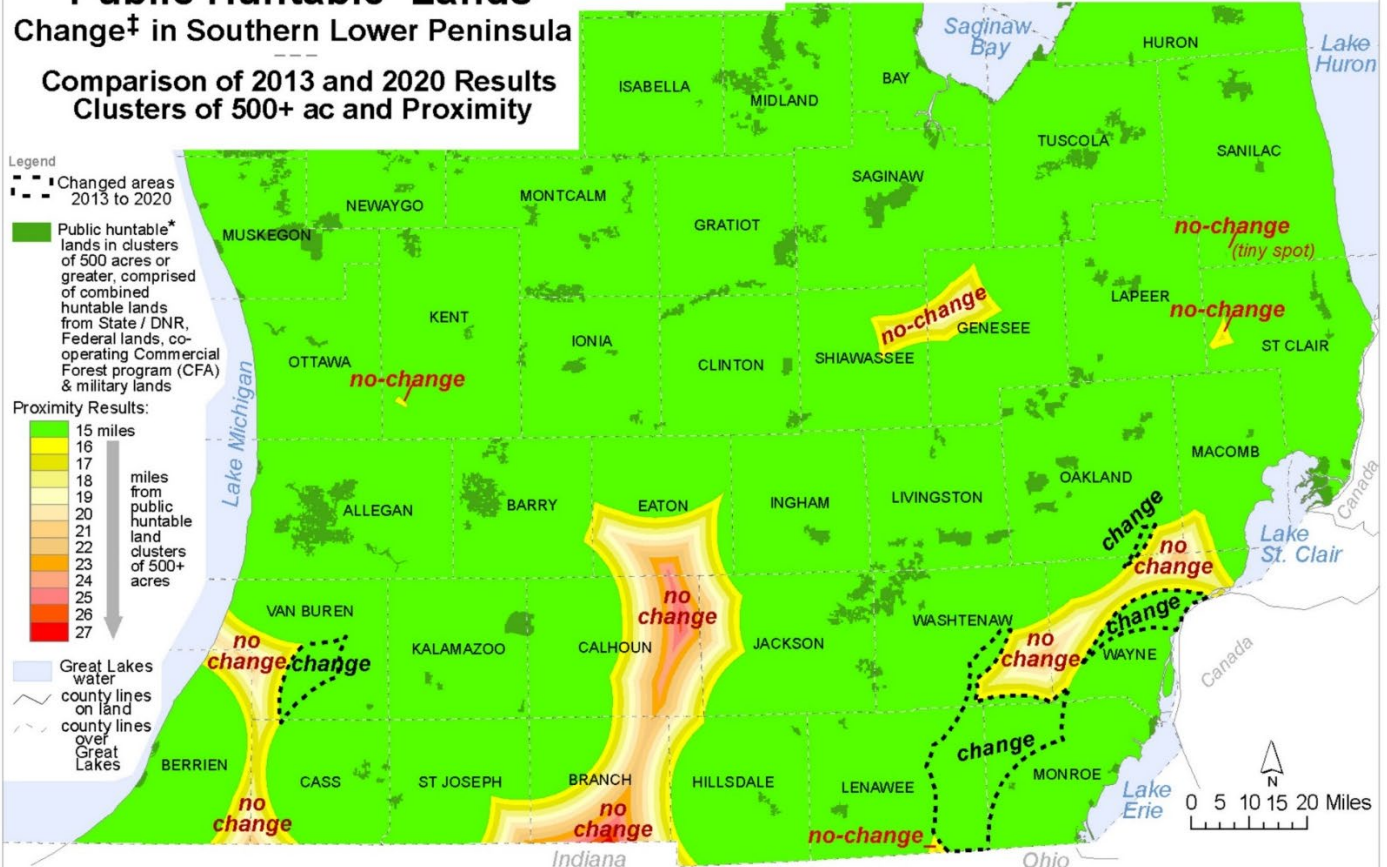
Proximity Results:

- 15 miles
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27

miles from public huntable land clusters of 500+ acres

Great Lakes water county lines on land

county lines over Great Lakes



‡2020 proximity results are shown as shaded back layer with the differences in 2013 proximity results as dash bold-black lines over top. Note: those counties not shown have no changes in 2013 to 2020 proximity analyses results.

(map fig3 phi2013to2020chg1-r7 rev date02/09/2021 -DNR/WLD M Strong)



## Strategy 6 – State trails

**Strategy 6 (statewide):** Manage the more than 13,000-mile state-designated trails network using the 2021 DNR Statewide Trails Plan to guide key metrics and priorities.

- **Measurable objective:** Design and locate trails to meet current and future needs.
  - **Measure:** Number and mileage of designated water, motorized and nonmotorized trails from the established baseline.

The DNR is currently updating the [Statewide Trails Plan](#) and reviewing [existing trails plans](#). For general information on DNR trails, go to [Michigan.gov/DNRTrails](https://Michigan.gov/DNRTrails).

## Appendix S: Additional resources for Goal 3 – Perform responsible natural resource management

**Strategy 1:** Sustainably manage and protect the state forest system while also maintaining dual third-party forest certification

- **Measurable objective:** Manage the state forest annually according to the State Forest Management Plan (which guides sustainable harvest, reforestation work, habitat values and recreation) while maintaining dual third-party forest certification.
  - **Measure:** Number of acres planted, and acres and volume of timber prescribed, prepared and sold annually.

Michigan has 3.9 million acres of state forests managed by the DNR for public use and enjoyment, wildlife habitat, forest health and forest products. State management plans guiding forest management activities are developed and published for 10-year periods as required by the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act.

The DNR has begun the process of developing a new plan targeted for 2023. While that is underway, [the 2013 plan is available here](#).

## **Appendix T: Engagement efforts**

### **Executive summary**

The most essential component in the process to update the public land strategy was engaging members of the public, local units of government and Department of Natural Resources stakeholders. The DNR is responsible for managing 4.6 million acres of public lands and 6.4 million acres of mineral rights on behalf of Michigan's residents. It is imperative that the voices of the public be heard during the development of a strategy for the DNR-managed public lands in Michigan.

As part of the land strategy sprint team, a team dedicated to engagement was established to ensure the DNR's communication with the public, local government officials and stakeholders was as comprehensive as possible throughout the entire update process. The engagement team employed a variety of interactive tools from the start of the process through the drafting of the final document. These "tools of engagement" included a dedicated website and email address, virtual meetings with key stakeholders, presentations to advisory councils and boards, and virtual public meetings. Information was distributed using an assortment of methods, including press releases, personalized email notifications and social media posts. Perhaps the most productive tool for engaging with the public and stakeholders was an online survey that offered an opportunity for respondents to weigh in on each aspect of the comprehensive draft land strategy.

At each step, the input and feedback received as a direct result of the engagement team's efforts were reviewed, evaluated, analyzed and incorporated, as appropriate, into the draft land strategy update. This report contains the detailed information on each level and tool of engagement, as well as the analyzed results of the online survey. The involvement by members of the public, stakeholders and governments was essential in the development of the final land strategy update, which is more robust and thorough as a result.

## **Engagement level plan**

The stakeholder and public engagement approach utilized throughout the land strategy update process is built on the spectrum developed by the International Association for Public Participation. This identifies the participation goal established for each level of impact, the assurances made for the groups identified for each level and the DNR's planned techniques for engagement. The groups identified to participate in each level of impact were assigned based on prior and existing relationships with the department, the department's vision for collaboration with various stakeholder groups and stakeholder preference. Although the DNR largely initiated public and stakeholder engagement, stakeholder groups had the opportunity to request increased engagement if they had a desire to be more involved.

DNR Land Strategy Stakeholder and Public Engagement					
	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Participation Goal	To provide the public and stakeholders with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities, and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives, and/or decisions.	To work directly with stakeholders throughout the process to ensure that concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with select stakeholders on specific aspects or issues including the development of alternatives and the identification of preferred solutions.	Final decision-making authority.
Assurances	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how your input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions to specifically identified components and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
Planned Techniques	Website, FAQ Document, GovDelivery Emails, Press Releases	Presentations by DNR staff, Public informational meetings	Regional workshops with invited stakeholders, Presentation of draft, Facilitated session to gather feedback	Based on results from regional workshops, plan specific work sessions with identified stakeholders to blend goals/visions for specifically identified components.	Decisions made by Director, Deputy Director, and DNR Management Team will be incorporated.

## Tools of engagement

### Initial engagement period

#### Designated email address

An email address was established to receive continuous feedback on the land strategy update as the department worked through the process. The email address was shared on the DNR website, on all public notifications, and at the various stakeholder sessions, public meetings and presentations to councils and boards. The last official public comment period ended Feb. 12, 2021. As of March 1, 2021, the account received 144 emails. Each of the emails received were reviewed by the engagement team.

#### Master stakeholder list

To ensure widespread input on the development of the updated land strategy, the DNR created a master stakeholder list by taking its stakeholder contact lists and combining them to include all individuals, groups and organizations who may have interest in the DNR public land strategy. This master list of 378 stakeholders was categorized by different types of stakeholder, lead point of contact, method of engagement and engagement level of each stakeholder in developing the land strategy. Level of engagement reflected how much involvement each stakeholder had in providing input on the strategy – this ranged from being informed to involvement in the process for the groups. At a minimum, stakeholders were informed about the process of updating the land strategy and how they could provide input using a variety of means including email, press releases and social media. Going forward, this curated list will be updated regularly as groups form and dissolve and as points of contact change, as it can serve as a valuable tool for future outreach and engagement.

#### Emails to stakeholder list

The DNR sent a series of emails to stakeholders, inviting them to participate in and provide input on various stages of the public land strategy and reminding them of deadlines and meeting dates.

- [Help update the DNR public land strategy](#) (June 25, 2020)
- [Take our public lands survey, drop a pin on your favorite place](#) (July 15, 2020)
- [You're invited to an interactive public lands strategy meeting Sept. 23/24](#) (a series of emails went out to regional subsets of the stakeholder list Sept. 2, 2020)
- [Ready for review: New land strategy sections available online](#) (Sept. 12, 2020)
- [REMINDER: Meeting tomorrow on public land strategy; your voice needed](#) (two emails went out to regional subsets of the stakeholder group Sept. 23)
- [Please share your thoughts on public land strategy before Oct. 31](#) (Oct. 13, 2020)
- [Thanks for your feedback on the public land strategy](#) (Dec. 10, 2020)
- [Input needed on comprehensive draft of public land strategy](#) (Jan. 19, 2021)



- [REMINDER: Share your thoughts on public land strategy draft by Feb. 12](#) (Feb. 9, 2021)

### **Key stakeholder meetings**

The department identified key stakeholders as organizations whose mission, membership and scope was likely to be interested in the updated land strategy, such as groups involved in conservation, recreation or land-use policy. Many of these groups have members who are active participants in activities that occur on DNR-managed public lands and would have a vested interest in how these lands are administered. Likewise, the key stakeholder groups tended to be larger groups or organizations having a statewide or regional reach. Key stakeholders had a higher degree of engagement than did other stakeholders, and most were involved in some focused meeting or review of the document.

DNR land strategy sprint team members met individually with key stakeholder organizations as part of the overall land strategy engagement process before the development of the strategy. These meetings allowed the department to gain an understanding of any public land issues in the 2013 Managed Public Land Strategy that needed addressing or new concerns that could be addressed as part of the updated plan. These meetings were critical in setting the direction of the updated strategy and ensuring that major points were not missed during development of the strategy.

### **Individual meetings with the Michigan Townships Association and the Michigan Association of Counties**

Public Act 240 requires DNR to report to the Legislature on its engagement and collaboration with local units of government. Because there are 1,240 townships and 83 counties in the state, the Michigan Townships Association (MTA) and the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) were identified as two of the key stakeholders and were the primary means of engaging and involving local units of government in the update of the DNR public land strategy. These two organizations were consulted early in the process to determine issues important to their members so they could be addressed in the strategy update. Further meetings ensured open lines of communication between the DNR and the organizations as the process continued.

### **All press releases published in MTA/MAC member updates**

To further the reach of the engagement on the land strategy, all press releases on the update process were published in the newsletters and member updates issued to the members of MTA and MAC.

### **Meeting with MAC Environmental Committee**

In addition to meetings with staff from MTA and MAC, DNR staff met and engaged with members of the MAC Environmental Committee in the early stages of updating the land strategy to ensure topics of interest to the organization were addressed. Every meeting with each organization during the update was well received and productive.

## **Public lands website**

To keep the public informed of the land strategy process and to have a dedicated location where people can access and review up-to-date information and documents, the DNR created [Michigan.gov/PublicLands](https://Michigan.gov/PublicLands).

## **Showcasing story**

“Showcasing the DNR” is a weekly series of feature stories, with photos, that gets sent every Thursday. It goes out to a list of more than 28,000 subscribers, including media representatives and many others interested in more in-depth stories about the DNR and its work. Daily and weekly newspapers often run the stories verbatim.

[Showcasing the DNR: The power of public lands – building a strategy for more than 4 million acres](#)

(Sent Sept. 24, 2020)

The land strategy story had:

- 76,736 recipients (in addition to the Showcasing the DNR list, it also went to the DNR statewide news lists and the forest planning list)
- A 24% open rate
- A 6% click rate

## **Tribal notifications**

Prior to releasing the land strategy for public review, the DNR tribal liaison contacted tribal government leaders to notify them about the plan and let them know they could contact team representatives with questions or if they would like to set up a meeting.

## **Engagement survey**

In an effort to engage the public in the land strategy update, the DNR used an informal engagement survey to increase awareness and interest. The intent of this survey, which was not scientific in approach, was to give members of the public an opportunity to weigh in on public lands, the importance of public lands to them and what they believe is a priority on public lands. Members of the public were invited to “drop a virtual tree” on an interactive web map to signify the location of public lands in Michigan that are most important to them. Upon “dropping a tree” they were asked to complete a brief three-question survey. The questions included:

- What do you value the most about public lands?
- How important are Michigan’s public lands to your quality of life and recreational activities?
- What is the limitation, if any, to you enjoying public land to the fullest extent possible?

While the results were far from scientific, which meant they couldn’t yield analytical results that conclusions can be drawn from, the information was insightful and helped to inform the work of the sprint team as it began the work of updating the land strategy.

The survey was popular with the public and was picked up by multiple media outlets as a sort of competition to try to have the most “trees dropped” in their region of the state.

## **First engagement period**

### **Presentations to councils, boards and committees**

As the sprint team developed draft components of the updated land strategy document, it was essential to ensure the various boards, citizen advisory councils and committees the DNR works with closely were informed, provided an overview of the draft components and update process, and offered an opportunity to provide input. To accomplish this, DNR staff provided 12 presentations from August to October 2020.

### **Facilitated stakeholder sessions**

Following the release of draft components of the land strategy update, DNR staff held four sessions to gather feedback from invited stakeholders in a facilitated setting. The sessions included a brief overview of the draft components of the strategy that had been developed to date. Because these sessions were held virtually, the DNR employed the use of an online presentation program called MentiMeter. This program provided the participants with the ability take part interactively by providing input via word clouds, ranking the importance of specific goals, strategies and measurable objectives, and providing general comments, recommendations and input on the draft document components.

### **Public meetings**

The DNR hosted two virtual public meetings during the first engagement period. The focus of the meetings was to provide an overview of the land strategy update process and details on the draft components and to gather input from the public. In an effort to be as accommodating as possible, one meeting was hosted in the evening and the other meeting was hosted during work hours in the afternoon. The attendance and participation at both of these meetings was very good, with a total of over 50 participants. For those members of the public and stakeholders who could not participate in the scheduled meetings, the meetings were recorded and made available on the DNR public lands website for viewing at a later time.

### **Michigan Townships Association magazine story**

“Township Focus” is the MTA’s monthly magazine, which goes to 6,500-plus township officials. The MTA gave the DNR an opportunity to reach a different audience than its existing media/customer lists with the placement of this two-page story about the land strategy update and its engagement process.

[The people’s land: Providing input on the state’s public land strategy](#)  
(October/November 2020)

## **Collaborative meetings with key stakeholders**

In addition to individual meetings to scope out concerns on the part of the organization, additional meetings were held with a few key groups to further collaborate on priority environmental issues and brainstorm ways to create partnerships to assure conservation of natural resources.

## **Engagement throughout the update process**

### **News/opportunities shared via DNR news releases, news digests and meeting/volunteer roundups**

In addition to the targeted stakeholder email messages, the DNR also distributed information and calls to action regarding the land strategy review process through:

- DNR standalone news releases and weekly DNR news digests
- DNR – Get Involved monthly volunteer/input opportunity roundups
- DNR monthly public meeting roundups

All of these options routinely are sent to the following GovDelivery email topic lists:

- Statewide DNR News (averaging 73,200 unique email subscribers)
- Restricted Michigan media list (averaging 215 print and broadcast media reps)

In addition, the standalone news releases usually were sent to the GovDelivery land strategy list. The weekly DNR news digests usually were sent to a second, filtered group (removing those subscribers who got the first send) including the In the Loop (state park employees) list and the Friends of State Parks lists (together averaging an additional 600 subscribers), as well as other relevant lists depending on the story content within the news digest – for example, Michigan’s Trails, Wildlife Viewing and Forest Health – so there were excellent opportunities for cross-promotion.

In some cases, no secondary sends were done because other email messaging (marketing emails/surveys, etc.) already was sent to same or similar distributions on or around the same distribution dates.

Here is a breakdown of the news release, weekly news digest and monthly volunteer/meetings emails that included stories or references to the public land strategy:

#### [Plugging into the power of public lands](#)

(June 30, 2020)

Distribution: 71,129 unique email subscribers

Open rate: 27% / Click rate: 5%

#### [DNR News: State-record fish, survivor elms and 2020 duck stamps and prints](#)

(July 14, 2020)

Distribution: 71,341 unique email subscribers

Open rate: 33% / Click rate: 6%

Secondary distribution (included In the Loop, Friends of State Parks, Wildlife Viewing):

6,433 unique email subscribers)  
Open rate: 36% / Click rate: 5%

[DNR – Get Involved \(August 2020\): State park volunteer opportunities, input on public lands](#)

(July 31, 2020)

Distribution: 71,426 unique email subscribers  
Open rate: 21% / Click rate: 5%

[200+ parcels of state-managed land available via online auctions in September, October](#)

(Aug. 13, 2020)

Distribution (included Land for Sale list): 95,198 unique email subscribers  
Open rate: 29% / Click rate: 18%

[DNR News: Liberty Hunt, elk viewing, Underground Railroad learning and more](#)

(Sept. 8, 2020)

Distribution: 72,697 unique email subscribers  
Open rate: 26% / Click rate: 6%

[So much to celebrate, Michigan Trails Week needs eight days](#)

(Sept. 17, 2020)

Distribution: 72,821 unique email subscribers  
Open rate: 23% / Click rate: 1%

[Weigh in on strategy for more than 4 million acres of public lands at virtual public meetings Sept. 30, Oct. 1; new DNR land strategy sections available online for review and feedback](#)

(Sept. 18, 2020)

Distribution: 590,708 unique email subscribers (included Boating, Fishing in Michigan, General Hunting, Invasive Species, Michigan's Iron Belle Trail Partners, Michigan's Trails, ORV Riding, Snowmobiling, Urban and Community Forestry Programs and Wildlife Viewing lists)  
Open rate: 19% / Click rate: 2%

[DNR News: Michigan's fall color show, National Public Lands Day and Network to Freedom historian spotlight](#)

(Sept. 22, 2020)

Distribution: 72,876 unique email subscribers  
Open rate: 25% / Click rate: 7%  
Secondary distribution: 595 unique email subscribers  
Open rate: 55 percent / Click rate: 3%

[DNR News: Arctic grayling milestone, archery deer opener, forest cleanup success](#)

(Sept. 28, 2020)

Distribution: 72,948 unique email subscribers

Open rate: 29% / Click rate: 6%  
Secondary distribution: 595  
Open rate: 58% / Click rate: 4%

[DNR – Get Involved \(October 2020\): Natural resource volunteer and input opportunities](#)  
(Sept. 30, 2020)

Distribution: 72,831 unique email subscribers  
Open rate: 24% / Click rate: 5%

[DNR seeks input on dedicated project boundaries, part of 2013 land strategy implementation](#)

(Nov. 2, 2020)

Distribution: 73,350 unique email subscribers  
Open rate: 26% / Click rate: 1%

[Seeking input on comprehensive strategy for 4 million+ acres of public lands](#)  
(Jan. 19, 2021)

Distribution: 74,902 unique email subscribers  
Open rate: 25% / Click rate: 1%

[DNR News: DNR V-Day cards, #FreeFishingWeekend, coyote tips](#)

(Feb. 8, 2021)

Distribution: 75,462 unique email subscribers  
Open rate: 28% / Click rate: 2%  
Secondary distribution: 619  
Open rate: 48% / Click rate: 7%

[March virtual meetings, land review info and position vacancies](#)

(Feb. 25, 2021)

Distribution: 180,624 unique email subscribers (included Belle Isle Park, Boating, Forest Health, Forest Planning, History Center News, Michigan's Trails, Natural Resources Commission, ORV Riding and Urban and Community Forestry lists)

Open rate: 21% / Click rate: 1%

Secondary distribution (Land Strategy list): 188 unique email subscribers

Open rate: 31% / Click rate: 5%

[DNR – Get Involved \(March 2020\): State park and habitat help, frog/toad survey, land review, more](#)

(March 4, 2021)

Distribution: 75,801 unique email subscribers  
Open rate: 21% / Click rate: 1%

[DNR News: Conservation Officer Appreciation Day, 2020 base license reminder, school forest guide](#)

(March 15, 2021)

Distribution: 76,194 unique email subscribers  
Open rate: 22% / Click rate: 2%

## **Social media**

Social media provides the DNR a great way to get the public engaged, and more importantly, talking about department topics with other people. Each of these posts fell in line with average people reached, except for the January post, which reached over 50,000 people (a great metric for a DNR post, especially when the topic is a bit more complex, such as the land strategy).

One key insight from these analytics is that most people reached by DNR posts weren't followers of our page (6% were followers on Instagram). This means the DNR is getting exposure to people who may not regularly pay attention. Another reason that social is playing a vital role in communication on the land strategy is the fact that the DNR's largest following comes from urban areas (Grand Rapids and Detroit). Getting those groups interested and involved is incredibly important when they may not see the impact of decisions on topics such as these on a regular basis.

## **Facebook posts**

- Total impressions: 130,969
- Total link clicks: 476
- Total engagements (reaction/share/click): 4,075

## **Instagram post**

- Total reach: 17,973 (6% were Michigan DNR followers)
- Total impressions: 21,060
- Total engagements: 1,667

## **Second Engagement Period**

### **Legislative one-pagers**

One-page informational documents were developed for the DNR executive office and the Legislature. The goal of the documents – which were updated as the land strategy progressed – was to simplify the process and provide an updated timeline of where the sprint team was throughout the project.

### **Follow-up key stakeholder meetings**

After initial drafts of the public land strategy were created, follow-up meetings with key stakeholder groups were held to further review the document and assure that it was consistent in its approach with overall conservation of public lands, wise stewardship and management of natural resources, and providing for public outdoor recreation.

## **Comprehensive strategy review survey**

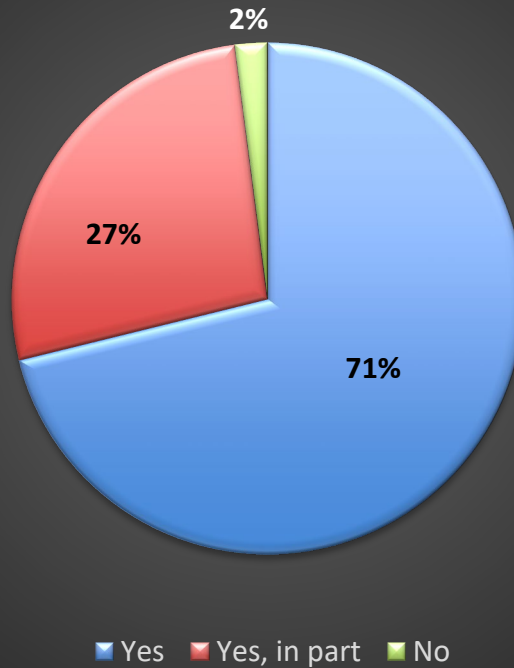
On Jan. 19, 2021, the DNR initiated the second round of engagement with members of the public, stakeholders and local units of government by releasing a comprehensive draft update to the land strategy. In an effort to gather meaningful feedback and input on the comprehensive draft document, the DNR developed an online survey that offered the opportunity for interested parties to respond to questions, rank the level of importance of key goals and initiatives, and provide direct comments on each component of the draft document. Collecting feedback through the survey also facilitated an analytical review of the results, which enabled the department to incorporate changes and modifications to the draft document in a much more streamlined manner. In addition to the survey, comments on the draft document were also accepted via email. The engagement period was open for approximately four weeks, closing Feb. 12, 2021.

The second round of engagement was very successful, as the survey had 1,089 participants. An additional 52 individuals provided comments via email. In completing the survey, respondents provided 2,630 comments across nine categories that offered the opportunity to further expand on survey responses or provide additional information to support the response to survey questions.

The details of the survey questions, as well as an analysis of the survey results and comment trends, are provided below.

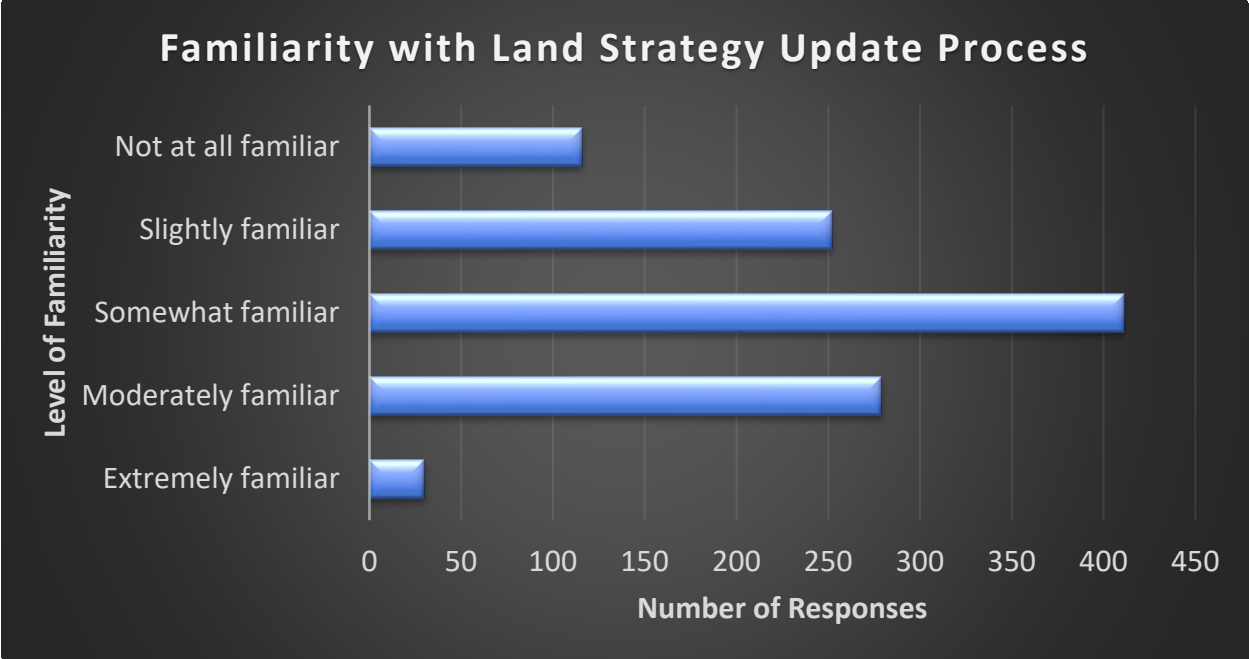


## Review of Document by Respondents



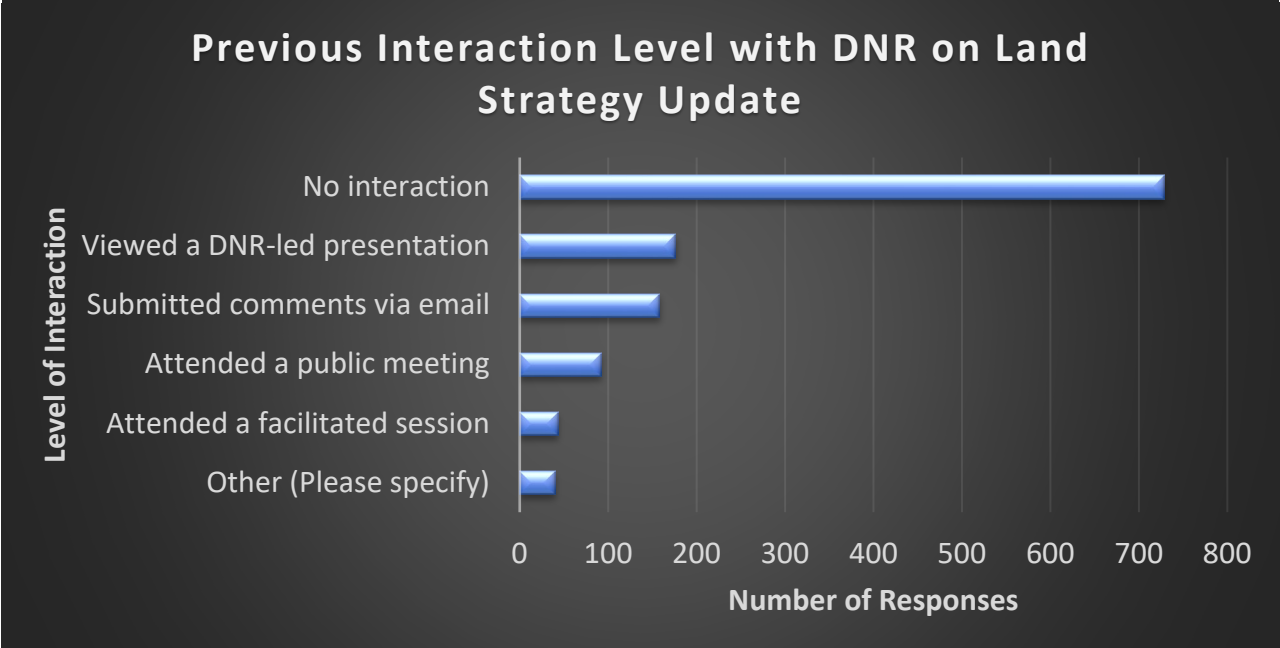
### Survey question 1: Have you reviewed the draft land strategy?

Based on the results, a significant majority of the respondents had reviewed the draft document either in full or in part. As a result, it is fair to conclude that the information and answers provided by the respondents on the remainder of the survey is well-informed.



**Survey question 2: Generally, how familiar are you with the DNR’s land strategy planning process?**

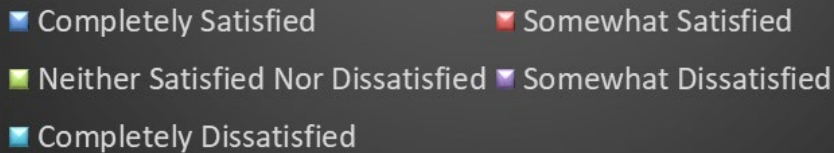
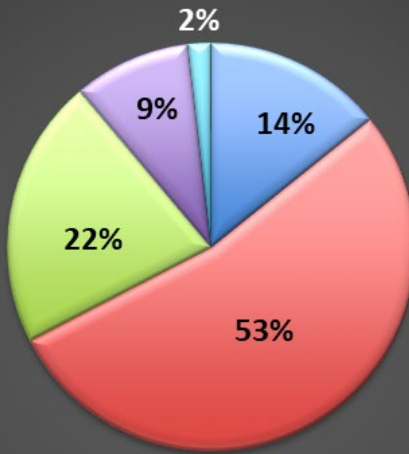
As indicated by the responses to this question, a significant majority of the respondents are at least somewhat familiar with the DNR’s process to update the land strategy.



**Survey question 3: How have you interacted with the DNR regarding the updated land strategy in the past?**

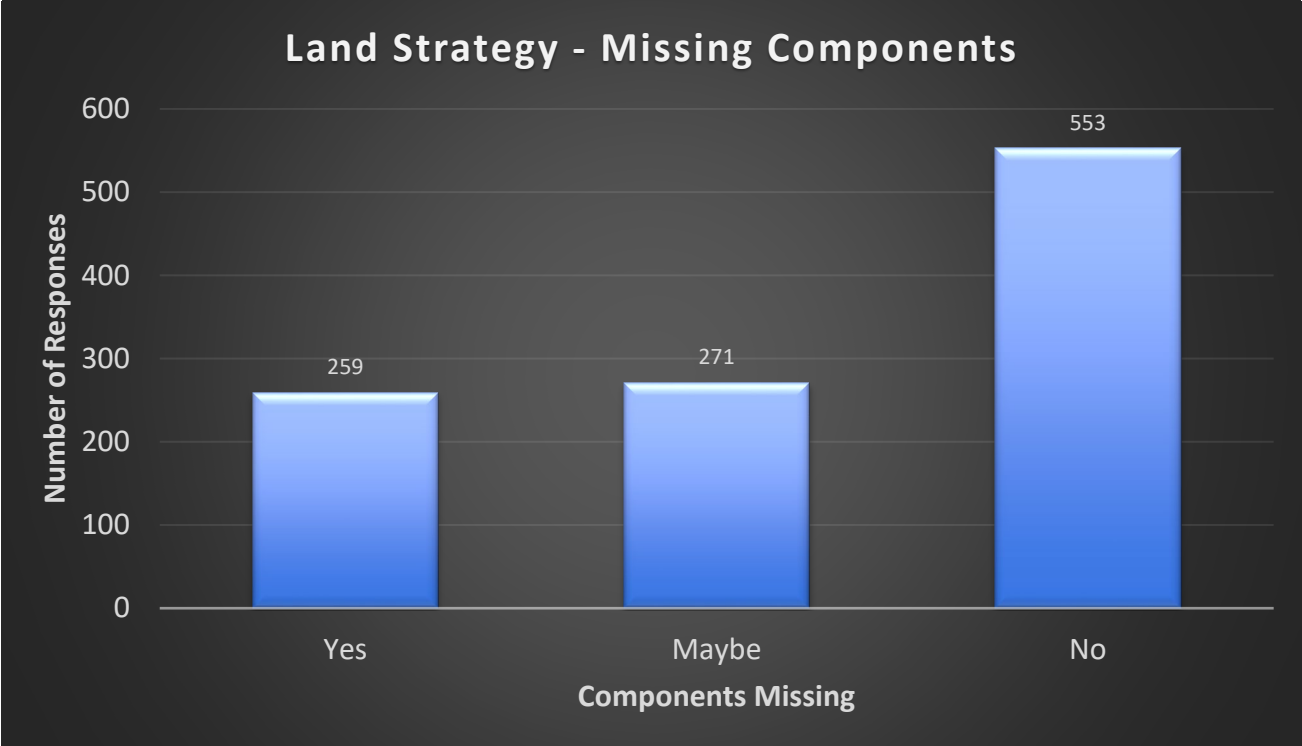
The purpose of this question was to gauge the level of respondents that were involved in the early engagement efforts on the development of draft components for the updated land strategy. As is evident by the results, a significant majority of the respondents did not interact with the DNR in the previous engagement efforts. However, there were some respondents who did engage early in the process and continued to stay engaged as the comprehensive draft document was developed and available for review.

## Overall Satisfaction with Land Strategy Update



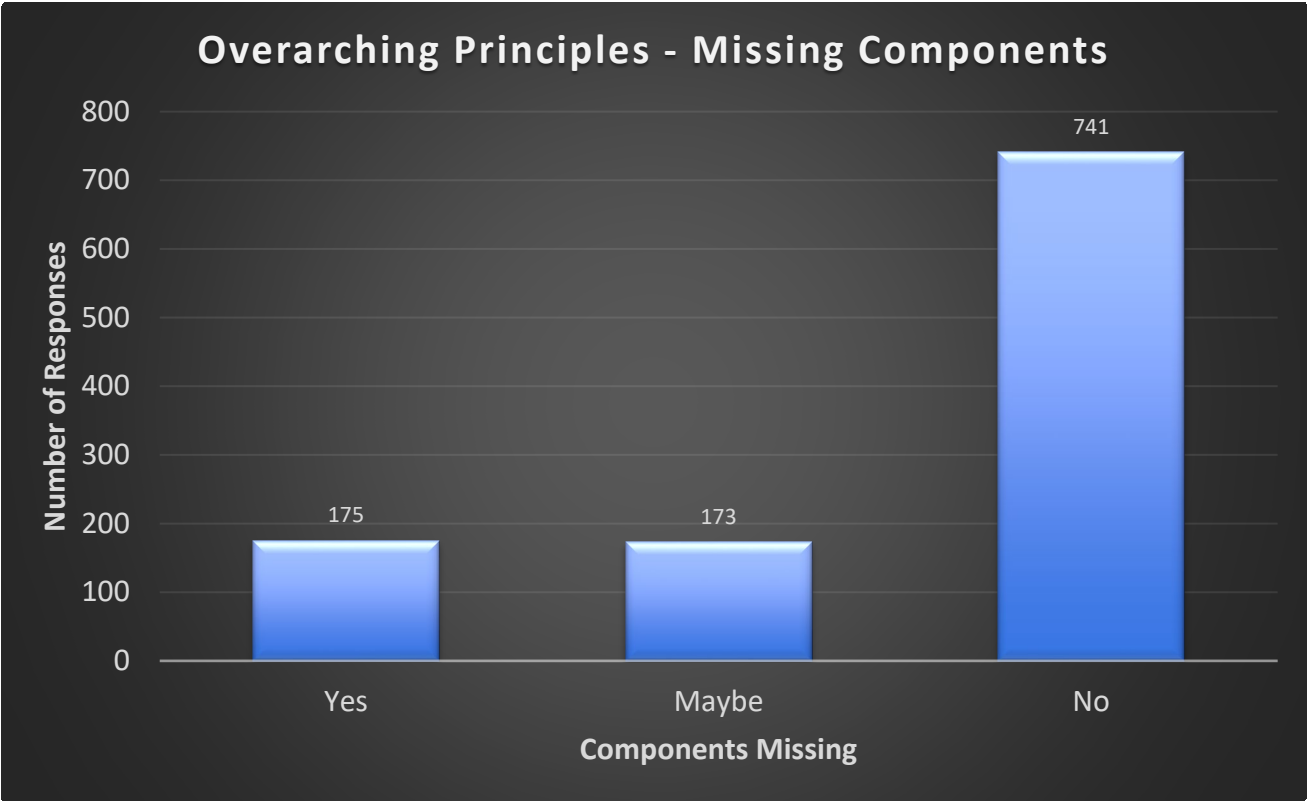
### Survey question 4: Overall, how satisfied are you with the draft land strategy?

This question is perhaps one of the most critical questions of the survey, as it provides insight into the public and stakeholder reactions to the draft of the updated land strategy. Based on the responses, over half of the respondents were somewhat satisfied with the draft update, while 67% were either somewhat or completely satisfied. While this points to the need to make some improvements to the draft, overall it provides support that the updated draft is reflective of what a majority of the respondents would like to see. The respondents were next offered the opportunity to provide an explanation for their opinion on this question.



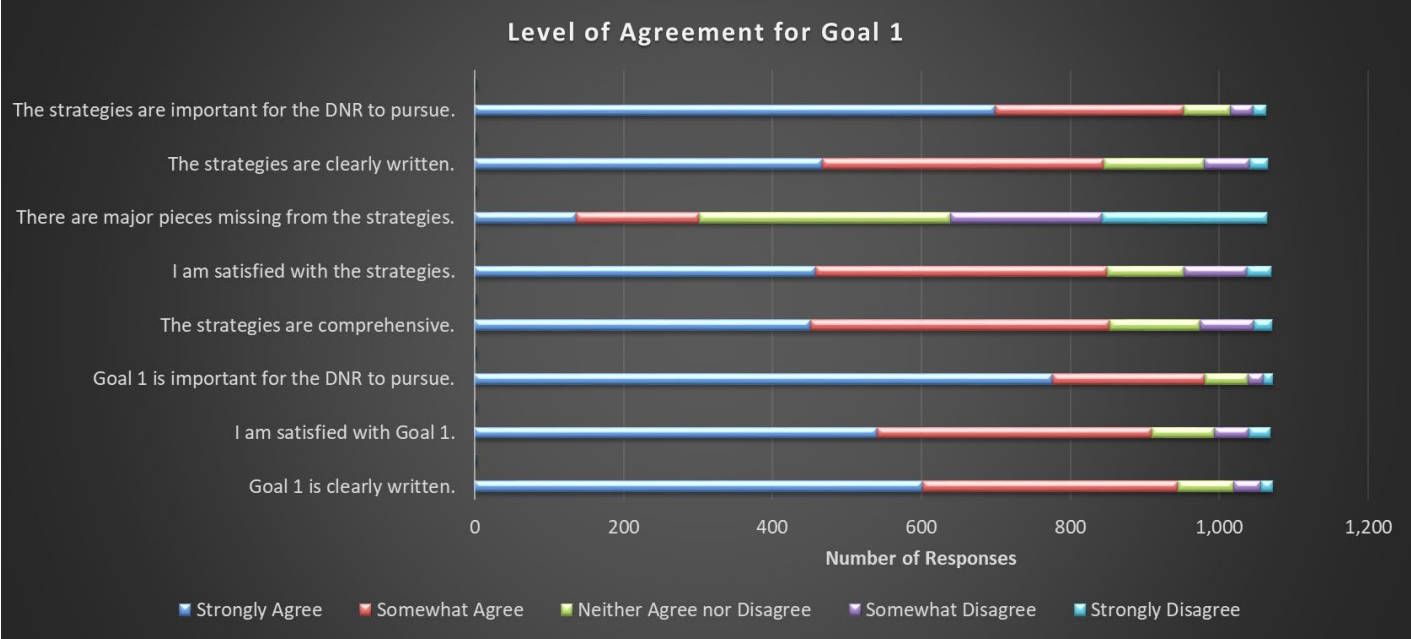
**Survey question 5: Overall, is anything major missing from the draft land strategy?**

This question provided an opportunity for the respondents to identify whether, in their opinion, there were any major components missing from the draft document. A significant majority indicated that they did not believe that the draft document was missing any major components. However, some respondents did believe that it was possible that components were missing, although they weren't entirely certain, while other respondents definitively felt that components were missing. The respondents were then given the opportunity to provide an explanation for their response and identify what, in their opinion, may be missing.



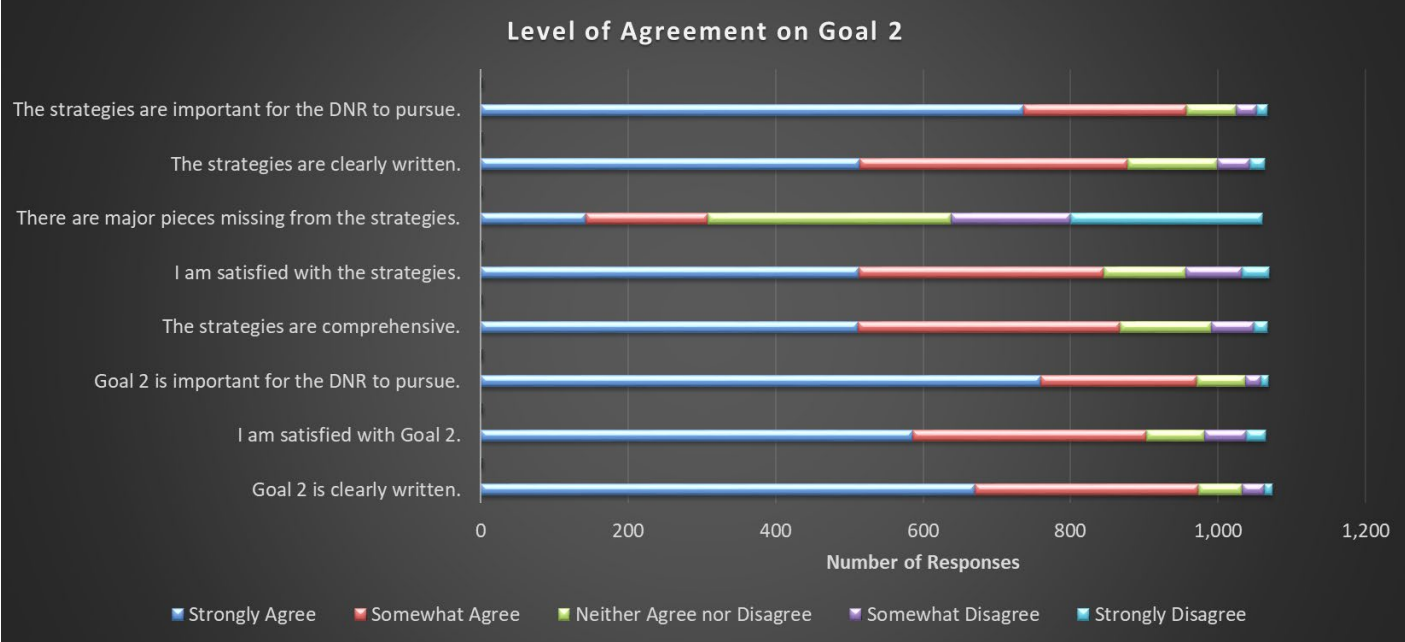
**Survey question 6: Is anything major missing from the overarching principles?**

The overarching principles section of the draft document provided an overview of the specific actions and ideals that the DNR is committing to achieving overall. This question asked the respondents to identify whether, in their opinion, anything was missing from this section. A compelling majority did not feel that anything was missing from this section. The respondents were then given the opportunity to explain their answer and offer insight into suggested changes or additions to the overarching principles.



**Survey question 7: The following questions refer to Goal 1 and its associated strategies. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.**

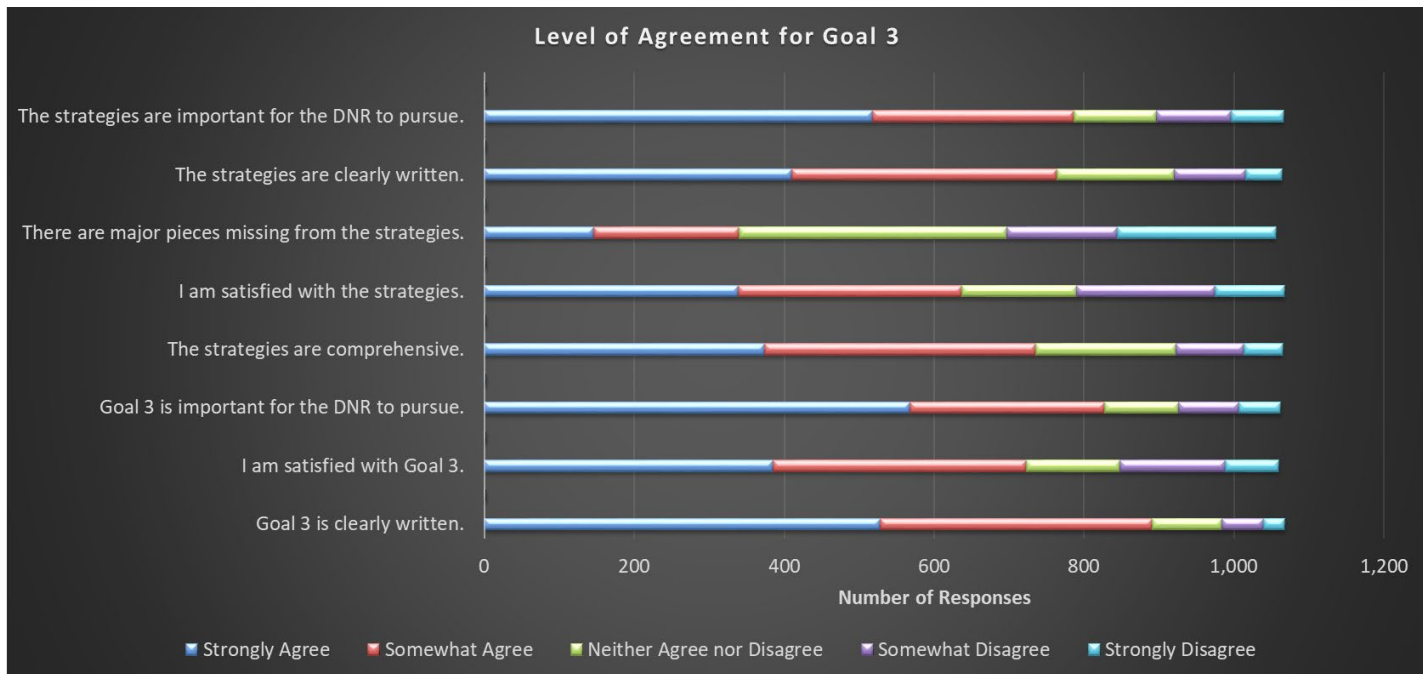
Goal 1 is “Protect natural and cultural resources.” A significant number of the respondents very strongly agree that both this goal and its associated strategies are important for the DNR to pursue. There is also a good overall level of satisfaction with both the goal and the strategies. The respondents were then given the opportunity to elaborate on their response and provide any additional comments regarding Goal 1.



**Survey question 8: The following questions refer to Goal 2 and its associated strategies. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.**

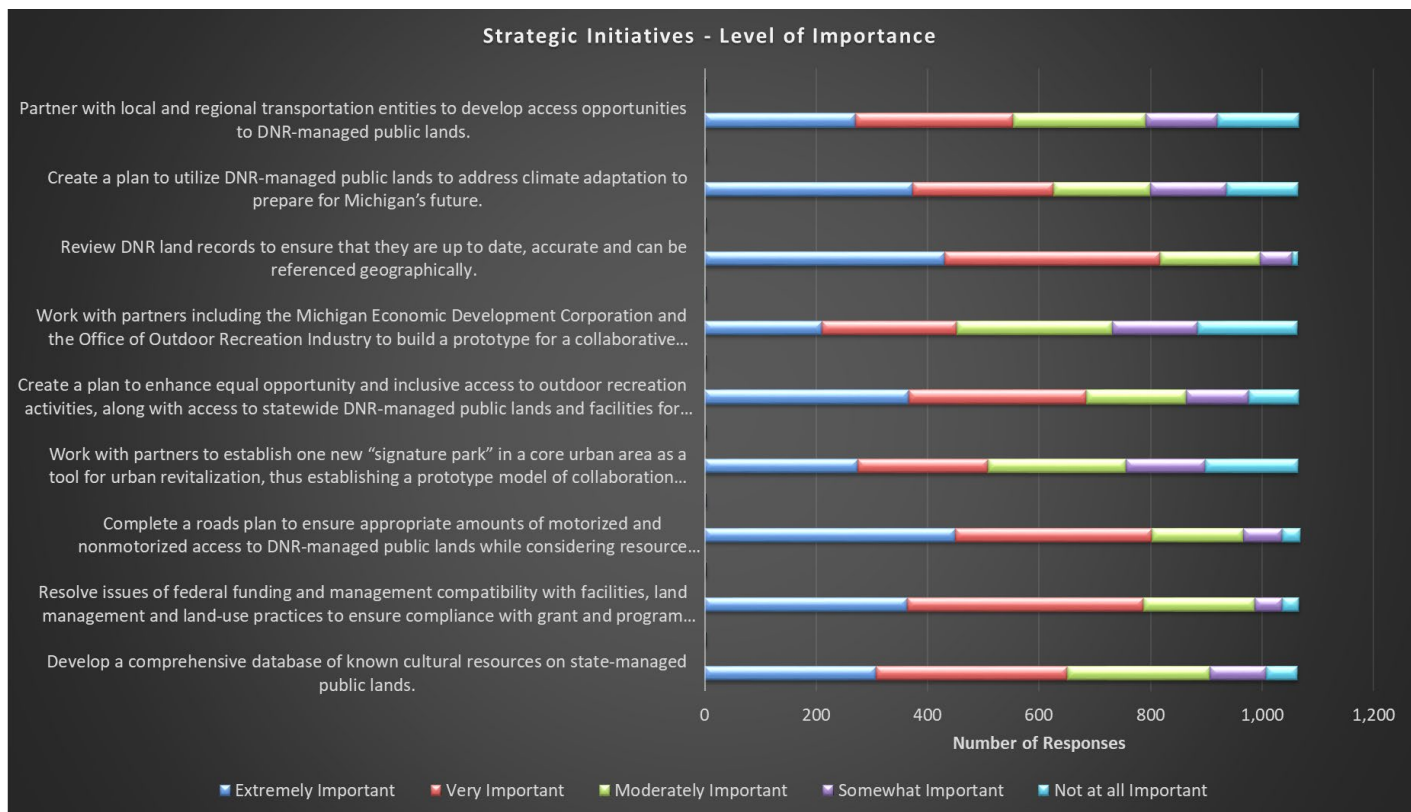
Goal 2 is “Provide access to outdoor public recreation opportunities.” A very strong majority of the respondents indicated that this goal and its associated strategies are important for the DNR to pursue. Additionally, there is strong overall satisfaction with the goal and strategies, as well as how they were written. The respondents were then given the opportunity to provide additional information or comments related to Goal 2.





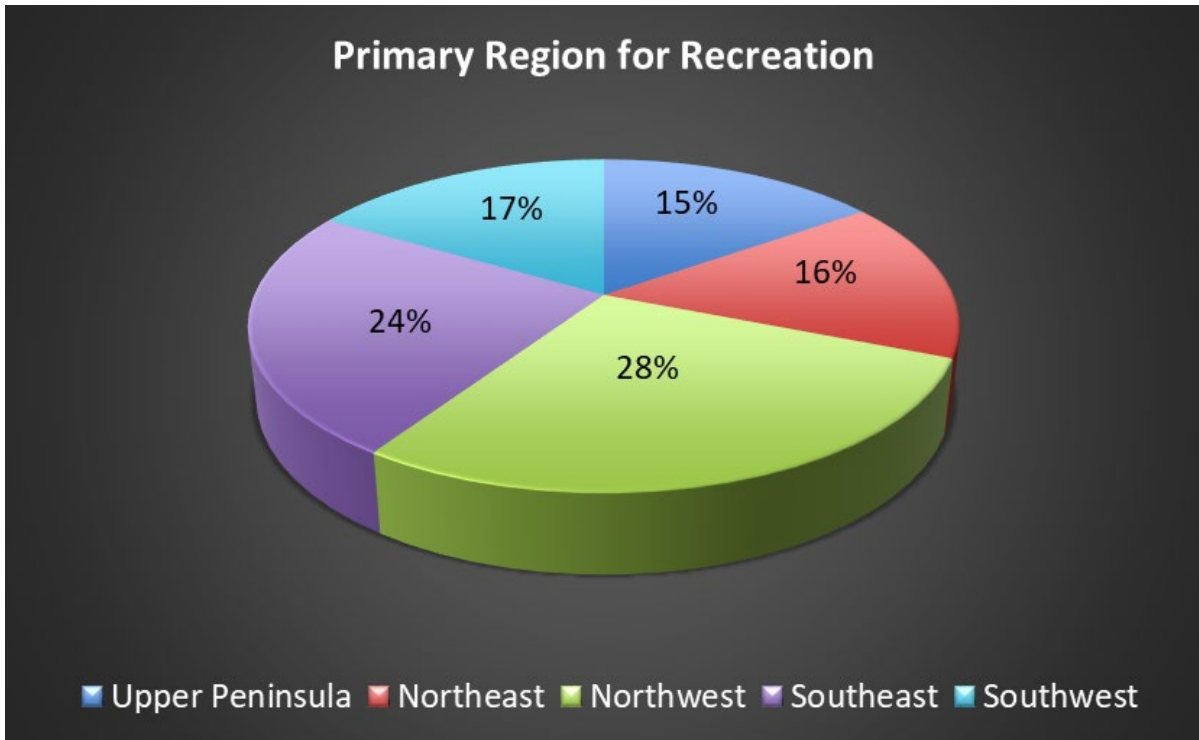
**Survey question 9: The following questions refer to Goal 3 and its associated strategies. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.**

Goal 3 is “Perform responsible natural resource management.” Overall, there was strong agreement from the respondents that this goal and its associated strategies are important for the DNR to pursue. There was also general satisfaction with the goal and strategies, although not as much as with goals 1 and 2. The respondents were then given the opportunity to provide additional comments related to Goal 3.



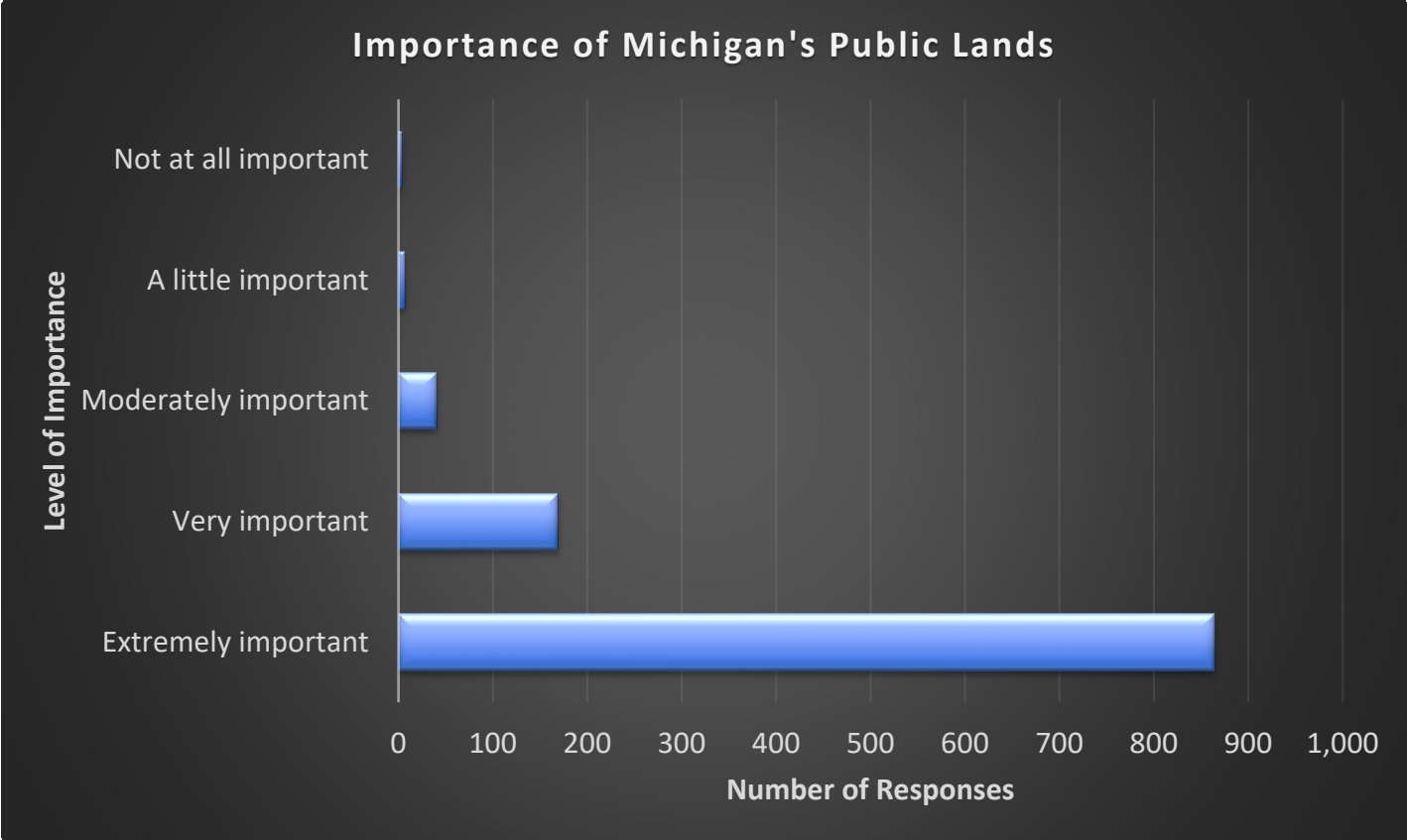
**Survey question 10: For each of the following strategic initiatives, please indicate the level of importance that you would place on each initiative.**

Separate from the goals and strategies, the strategic initiatives are specialized projects that will require additional dedicated resources (staff and funding) beyond the normal course of the DNR’s daily work. The respondents were asked to indicate how important they felt each of the identified strategic initiatives are. The development of a road plan and a review of DNR land records to ensure accuracy were the initiatives the respondents placed the highest level of importance on. An initiative to work with partners to foster economic growth and placemaking in three Michigan communities received the lowest scores for level of importance. The respondents were then offered the opportunity to provide additional comments and suggestions related to the identified strategic initiatives.



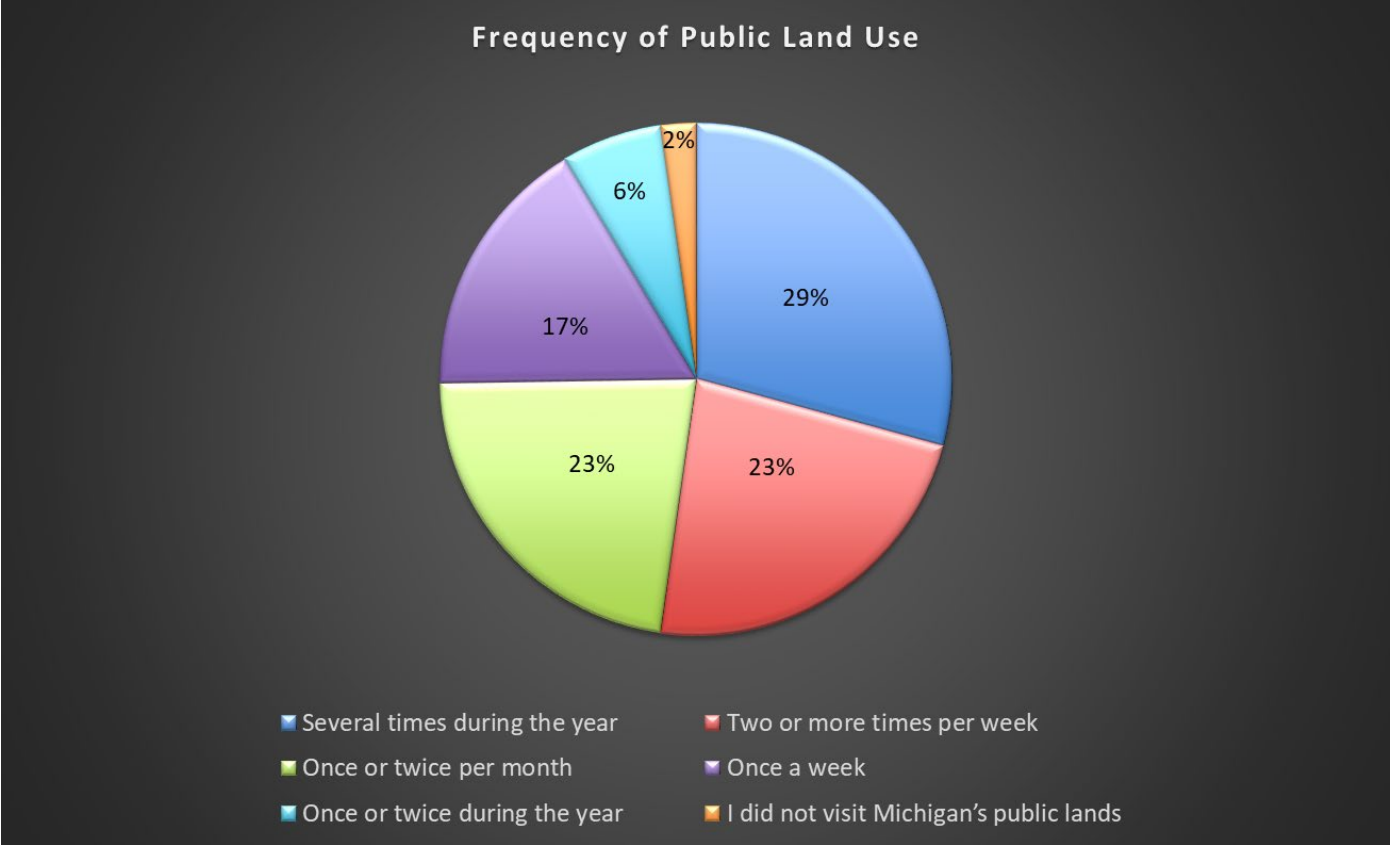
**Survey question 11: In which area of the state do you primarily recreate? (You may only choose one area.)**

In order to better understand the region of the state that the respondents place importance on from a recreation perspective, the survey sought to determine which areas of the state were identified as being in demand for recreation opportunities. The northwest Lower Peninsula and southeast Lower Peninsula were identified as the destinations for recreation for over half of the respondents. The number of responses for the remaining regions was very similar across all three.



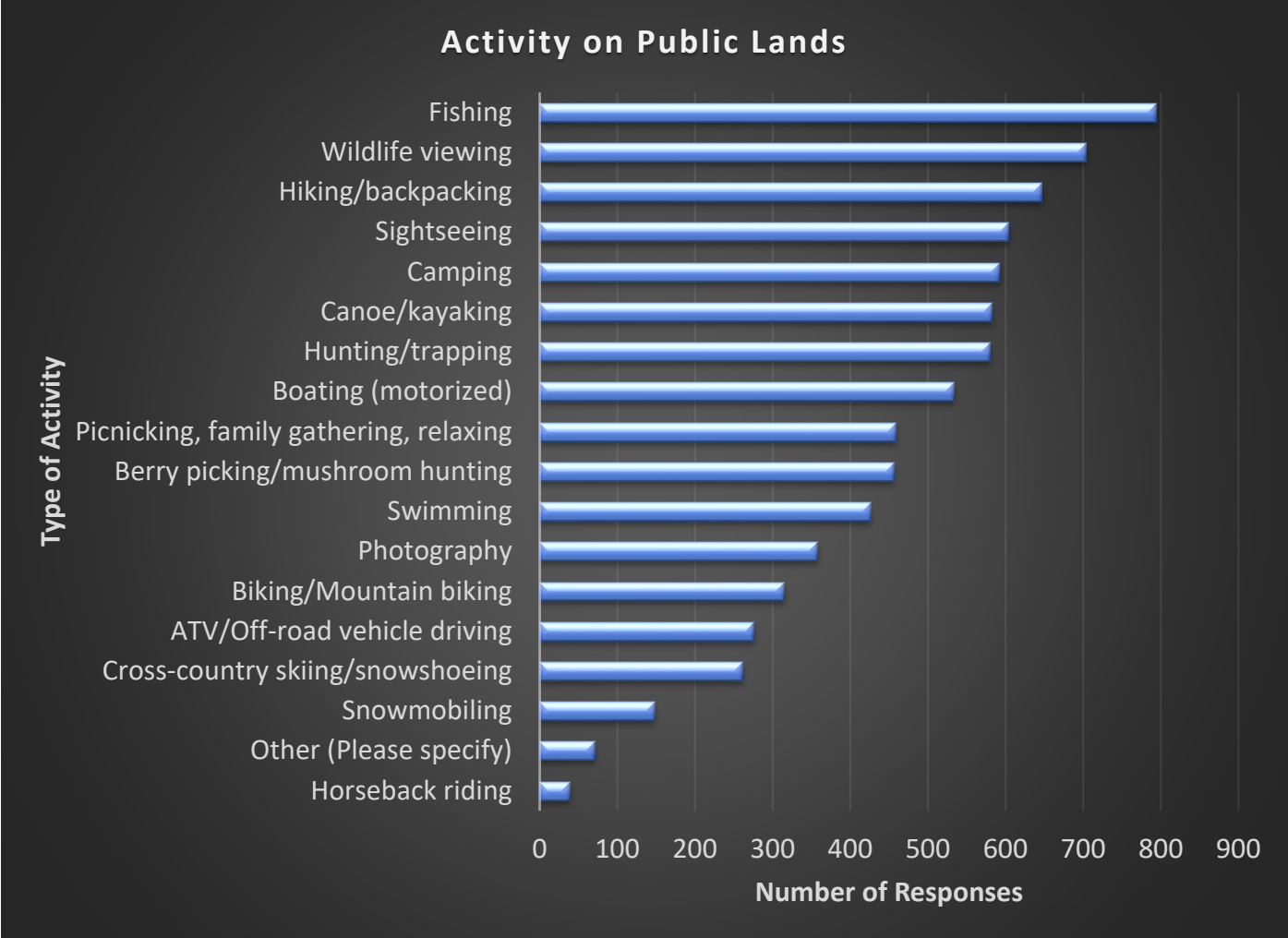
**Survey question 12: How important are Michigan’s public lands to you? Select one response.**

In order to gauge the level of importance that the survey respondents place on Michigan’s public lands, they were asked to rate that level of importance. As is evident by the response, a vast majority of the respondents indicated that public lands are extremely important to them.



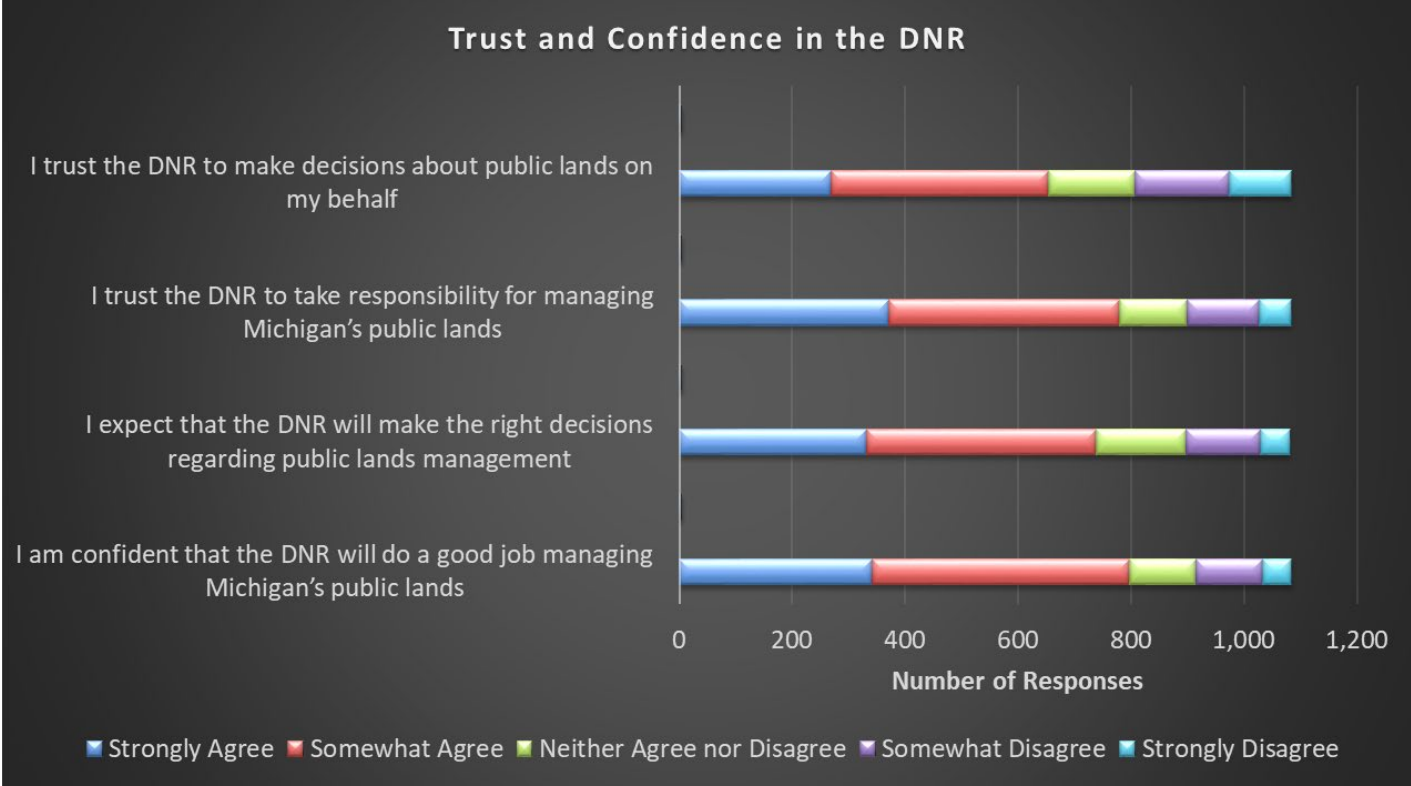
**Survey question 13: During the past year, how often did you visit Michigan’s public lands? Select one response.**

The frequency with which the respondents visit public lands in Michigan provides some insight into just how much they are using public lands and how that may impact their views of those lands. Based on the responses, over half of the respondents use public lands either several times a year or two or more times per week. Only a very small percentage either did not use public lands or used them only infrequently, such as once or twice per year.



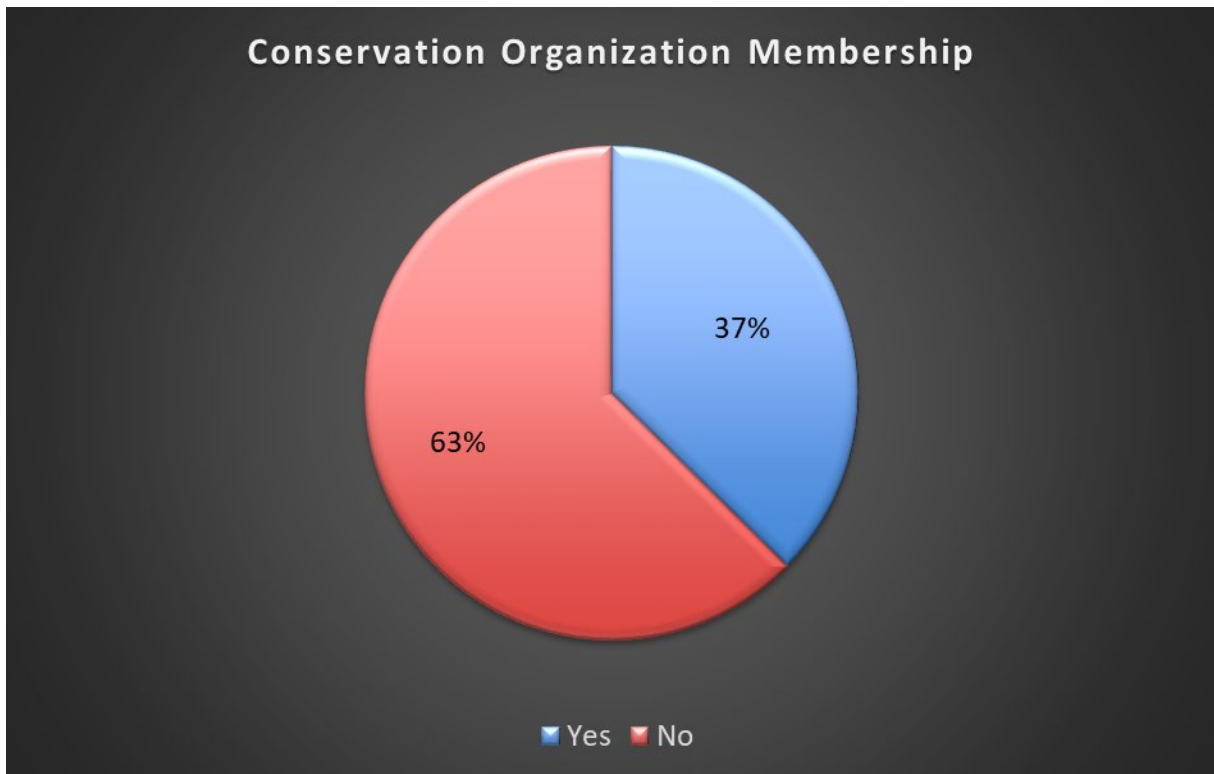
**Survey question 14: Which of the following types of activities do you typically do on Michigan’s public lands? Select all that apply.**

To better understand the recreational activities that the survey respondents typically do on public lands, they were asked to identify all activities in which they engage. Fishing was identified as the most popular activity by a fairly significant margin, with wildlife viewing and hiking/backpacking coming in second and third, respectively. The activity with the least response was horseback riding.



**Survey question 15: To what extent do you disagree or agree with the following statements regarding your trust and confidence in the DNR? Select one option for each statement.**

The level to which the public and stakeholder respondents trust and have confidence in the DNR is an important indicator of how the department is doing in its work and communications. Overall, for each of the statements regarding trust and confidence in the DNR's decision-making and management of public lands, a significant majority of the respondents either strongly agree or somewhat agree that they do have trust and confidence in the DNR's abilities.



**Survey question 16: Are you a member of a conservation organization?**

Whether the respondents are members of a conservation organization is a good indicator of their affiliation with or work for a stakeholder group. While stakeholder input is essential, it is also important that members of the public who are not affiliated with a specific stakeholder organization provide their opinions and recommendations related to the land strategy. Based on the response, more than one third of the respondents are not a member of a conservation organization. For those who are members, they were offered the opportunity to provide the name or names of the conservation organizations of which they are members.



## **Survey demographics**

This section of the survey included questions that identified specific demographic information about the respondents. The purpose of gathering demographic information is to assist in providing a general understanding of the different characteristics of the respondents. An analysis of the demographic information serves to provide insight into the responses that were provided and also helps to identify some ways that the DNR can improve its outreach and communications.

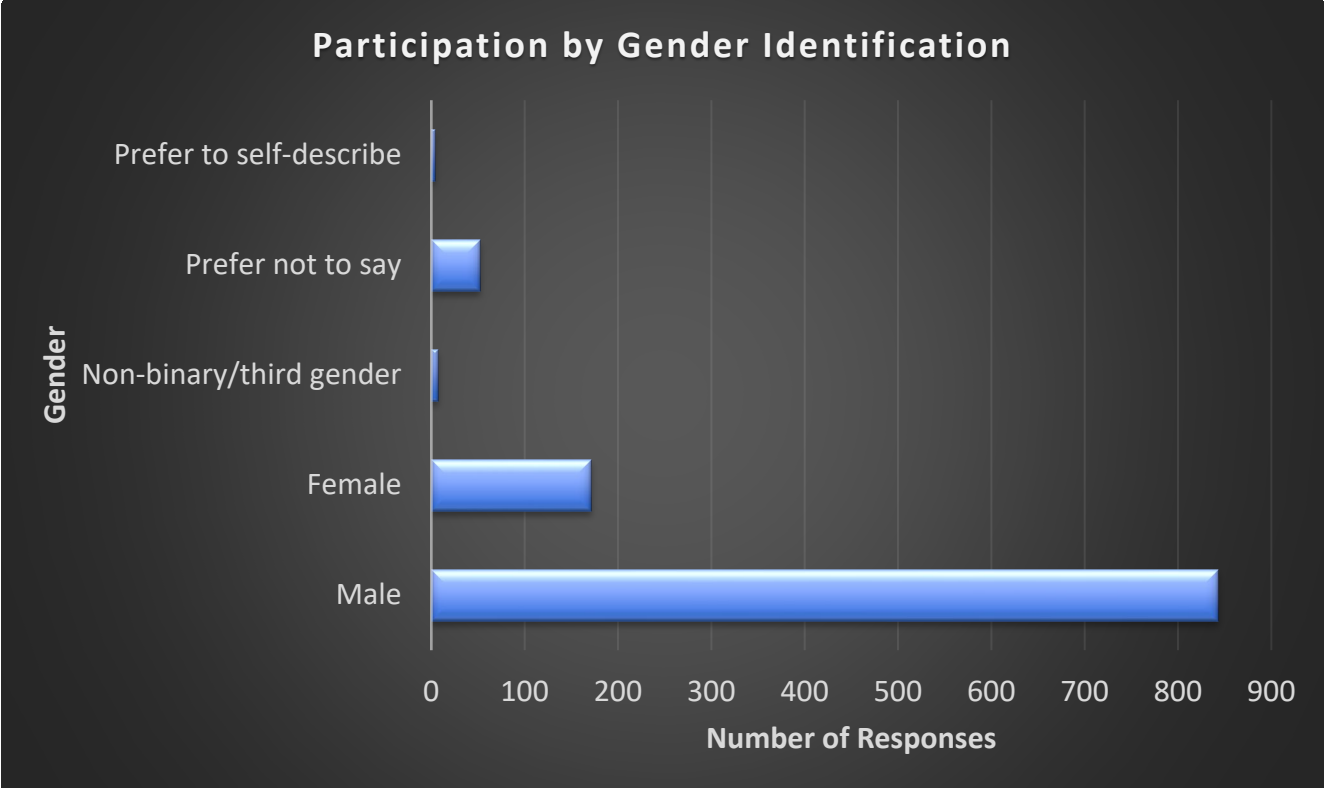
The overall analytical results of the survey indicate that a majority of the respondents fall in the following demographic categories: resident of southern Michigan; male; postsecondary education; white; higher income; and middle-aged.

The DNR used an opportunistic survey method of issuing a press release, social media posts and notifying individuals who are signed up to receive information from the DNR to solicit input on the land strategy and complete the survey. While these methods resulted in an estimated reach of over 623,000 people, this approach lacked the scientific rigor of more carefully controlled survey techniques. While the more than 1,000 survey responses that were received did help to shape the final draft of the updated land strategy, these respondents do not accurately reflect Michigan's demographic makeup. Because the DNR recognizes that Michigan's public lands belong to everyone, we will be working to conduct more equitable surveys in the future and, as is noted in the overarching principles, will focus on the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion in an effort to better represent all of Michigan's residents.



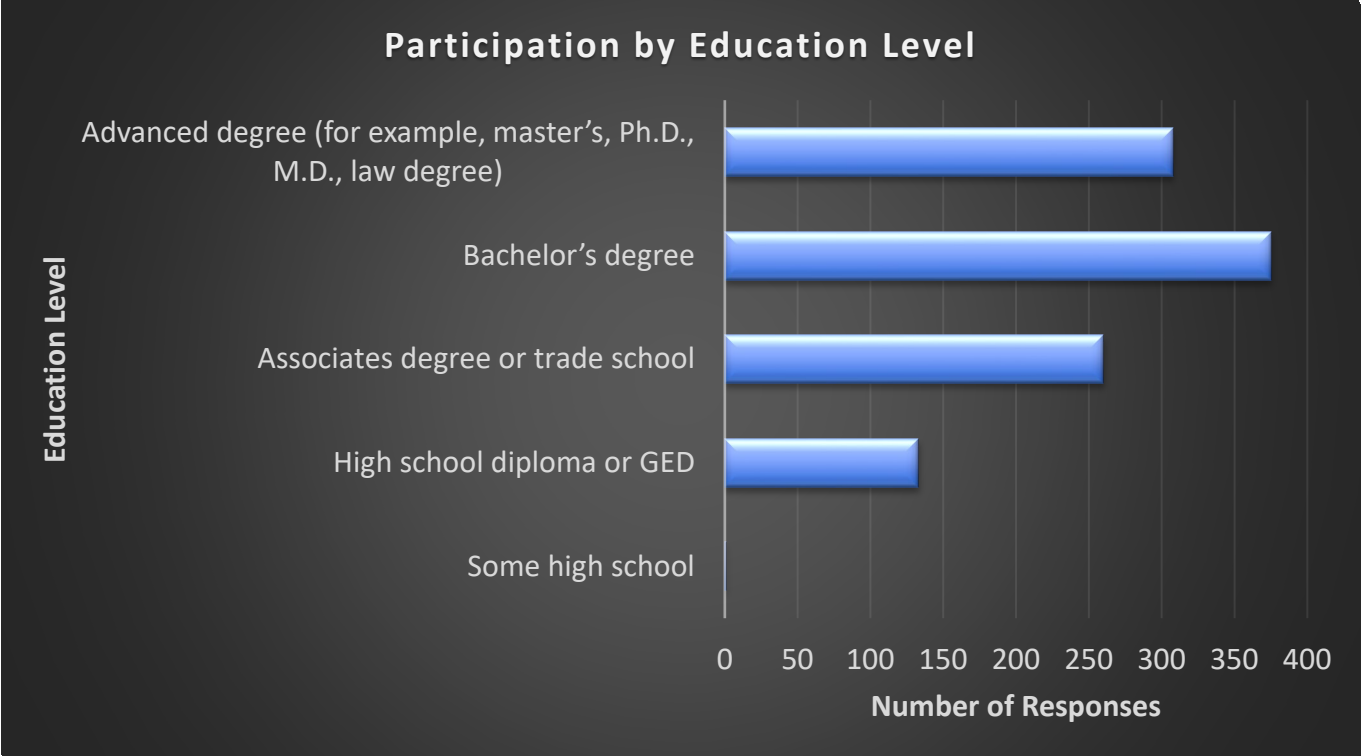
### **Survey question 17: In what Michigan county do you primarily reside?**

The survey respondents come from 80 of Michigan's 83 counties, with a broad geographic representation, from Gogebic County in the western Upper Peninsula to Monroe County in southeast Michigan. Additionally, approximately 30 survey respondents participated from outside Michigan. As the map shows, a majority of the respondents reside in southern Michigan, especially southeast Michigan. However, it is clear that the number of respondents also coincides with the population, as the counties with the highest number of respondents are also among the highest populated counties in Michigan. This also proved true for the northern parts of the state, with Grand Traverse County, centered around Traverse City, and Marquette County showing the highest number of responses for the northern Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula, respectively.



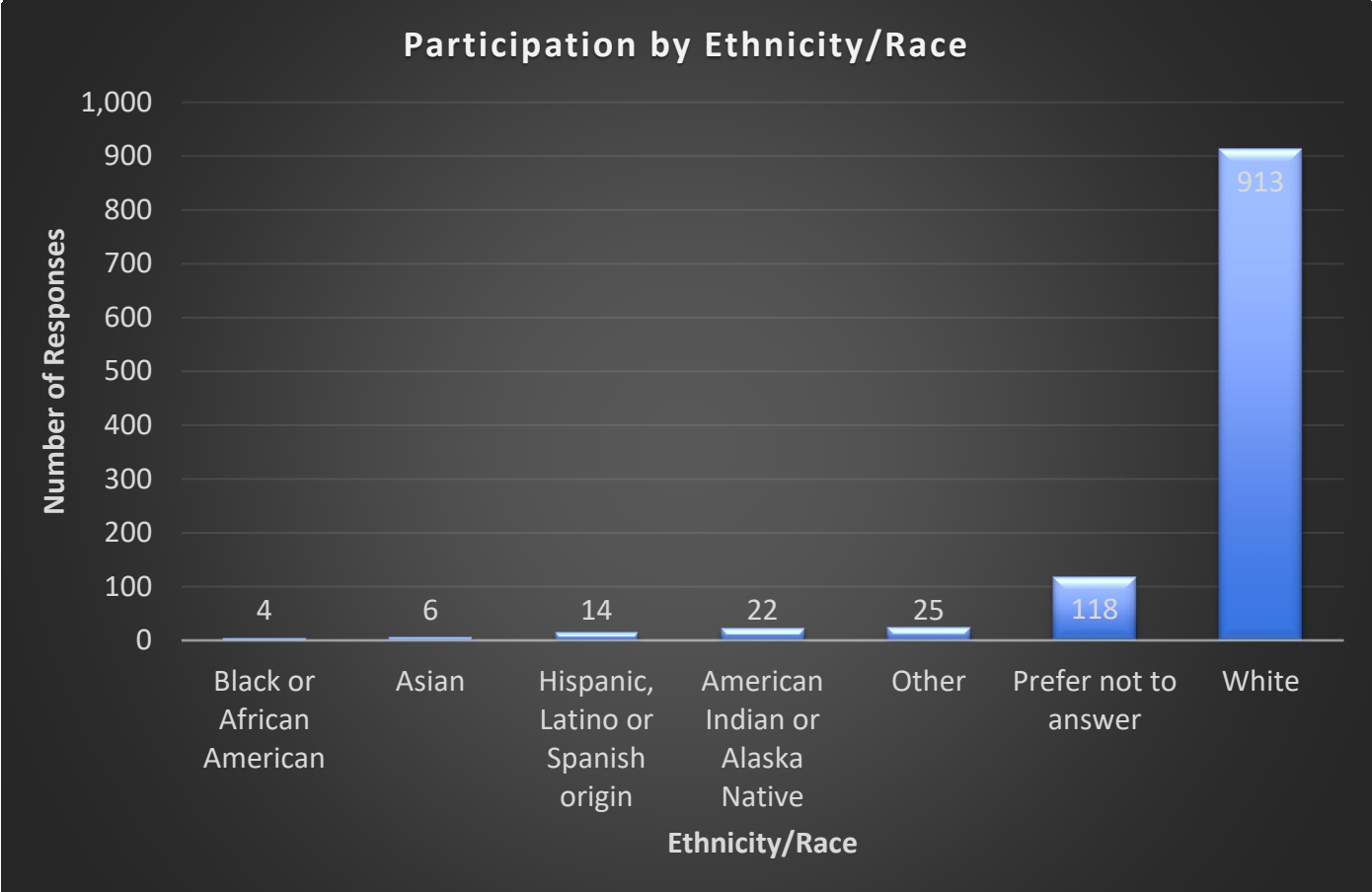
**Survey question 18: With what gender do you identify? Select one response.**

As is demonstrated by the response to the survey question regarding the gender of the respondents, a significant majority (78%) are male, with a much smaller percentage (16%) of the respondents being female.



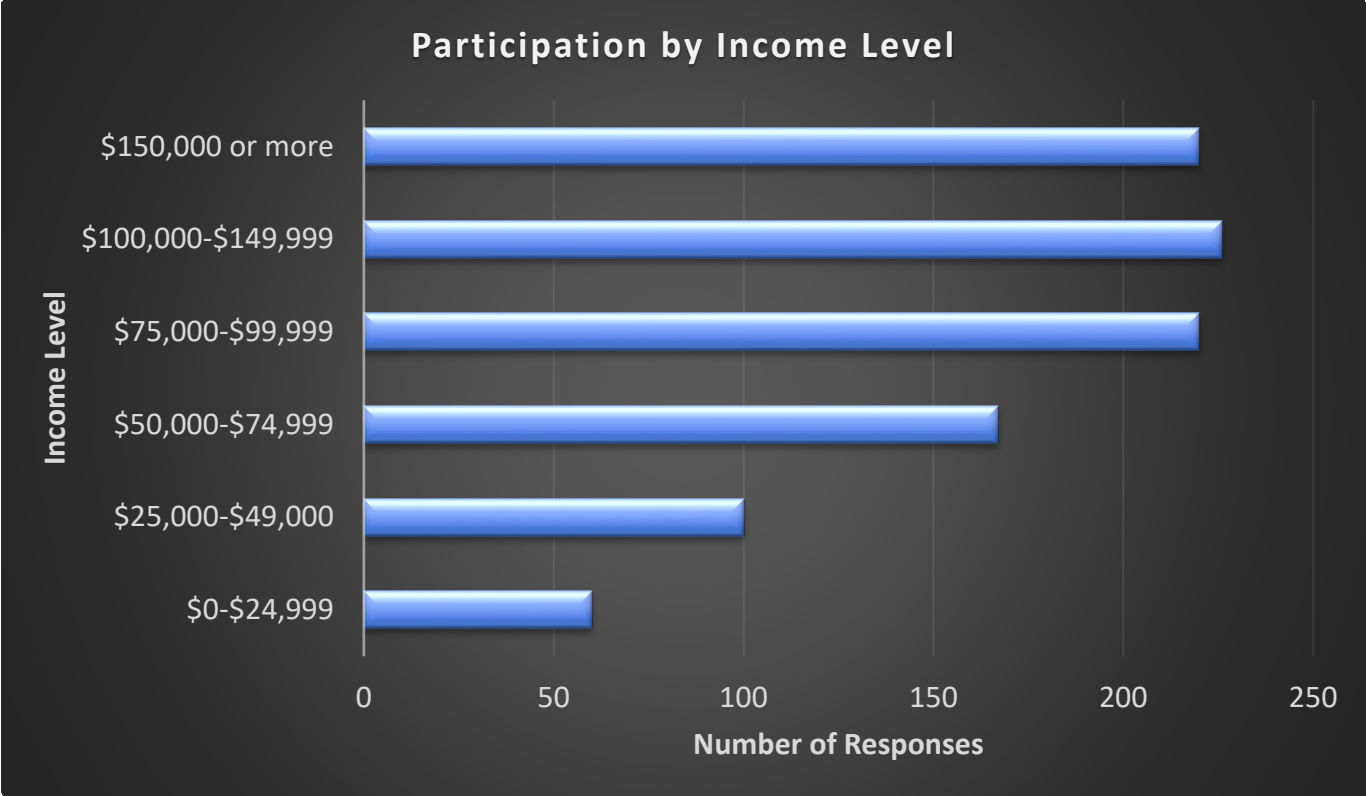
**Survey question 19: What is the highest level of education that you have completed? Select one response.**

Regarding the education level of the survey respondents, 64% have either a four-year degree or a post-graduate degree. An additional 24% have an associate degree or trade school certificate. Based on these results, a significant majority of the survey respondents have a postsecondary education.



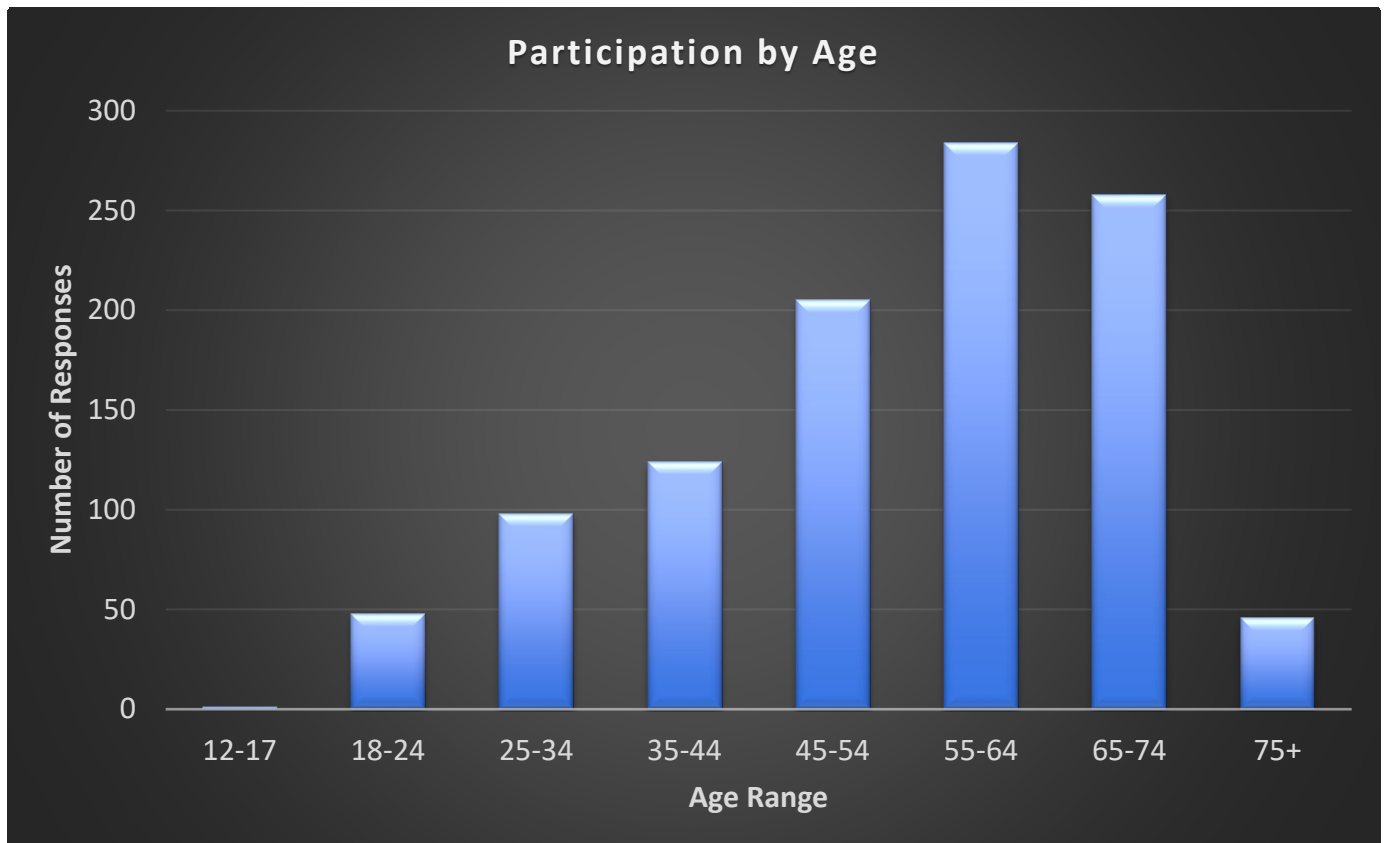
**Survey question 20: How would you describe yourself? Select all that apply.**

An overwhelming majority, 85% of the respondents, describe themselves as white when asked to identify the race or ethnicity that they would use to describe themselves. A much smaller number of applicants described themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native; Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin; Asian; or Black or African American, while 11% of the respondents preferred not to answer this question.



**Survey question 21: During 2020, what was the total income, before taxes, of all the people living in your household? Select one response.**

When asked about household income, 67%, a compelling majority of the respondents, indicated that their 2020 income prior to taxes is \$75,000 or higher. Based on this data, a majority of the survey respondents are in a higher income category.



**Survey question 22: What is your age?**

Just over half of the survey respondents indicated that their age range is between 55-74. The next highest age range was the 45-54 category, with smaller percentages younger than 44 years old and older than 74 years old.

To conclude the survey, the respondents were given an opportunity to offer any additional comments on the overall land strategy document or any of the individual components of the strategy document. Respondents also were able to submit their email address to the DNR in order to receive information regarding the land strategy in the future. More than 460 of the survey’s respondents took advantage of this opportunity to continue to stay engaged with the DNR in the future.



## Survey comments – synopsis

As discussed previously, the respondents had nine different opportunities throughout the course of the survey to expand on responses or provide additional explanations or comments related to the survey components. In analyzing the results of the survey and reviewing the comments provided, several trends and actionable items emerged.

A synopsis of the comments and the trends that emerged from the survey is below. For each bulleted item, a summary of how the issue was addressed in the final document is noted in *italics*.

- Many respondents were looking for more details and tactical information than the draft document provided.
  - *The land strategy is intended to be an overarching strategy document, with the more detailed and tactical information and efforts outlined in the individual strategic and management plans that are completed in each of the DNR's resource managing divisions. The final document provides a direct link to the individual strategic and management plans so that individuals can review the tactical information and details that they were seeking.*
- A common theme from the survey respondents was a request for more information on the implementation of the land strategy and the goals and initiatives that are outlined in the document.
  - *The DNR is committed to being open and transparent in the implementation of the land strategy by regularly engaging with the public and stakeholders. Additionally, the department will offer opportunities to track the progress toward the identified goals and strategies. An implementation plan will be developed upon approval by the Legislature.*
- A few topics drew polarized responses from the survey respondents. One such topic was the effort to expand the DNR's footprint in urban areas. Many respondents were very supportive of such efforts, recognizing the benefits in core urban areas. Conversely, there were many respondents who were opposed to such efforts due to the belief that the DNR should focus on natural resource protection and management, as well as recreation, in rural areas and specifically in the northern Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula.
  - *The DNR will continue to include a focus on urban areas in the final land strategy document, as the department's responsibilities are statewide and to all residents of Michigan, including urban areas. Therefore, these components of the final document remain unchanged.*
- Another polarizing issue in the survey was the diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) overarching principle and focus. Many advocates were very supportive of the inclusion of DEI in the document, as it was notably absent from the previous land strategy. Conversely, many other respondents were opposed to the inclusion of DEI in a DNR strategic plan and felt that it introduced a political issue into the department's planning efforts.

- *The DNR is committed to the overarching principle of DEI and will not be deviating from that in the land strategy. As a state department, the DNR represents all Michigan residents and will work to ensure that the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion are a primary focus of the agency going into the future.*
- The final issue that drew polarized responses in the survey was climate change. Many survey respondents were very pleased to see the focus on climate change in the goals, strategies and initiatives set forth in the land strategy. This was another topic that had been identified as being notably missing from the previous land strategy. On the other hand, there were also many survey respondents who were opposed to the inclusion of climate change in the updated land strategy. Their opposition ranged from the issue being far too large for the DNR to have any impact on it to a belief that climate change is not real to again feeling that the department is introducing a political issue into the land strategy.
  - *The DNR is focused on working to mitigate the impacts of a changing climate. Given the large land base that the department manages across the state, there is an opportunity to be proactive in adapting to, preparing for and ensuring resiliency to emerging threats due to climate change. The opportunity to participate in programs such as climate sequestration to do our part to help mitigate the impacts of climate change is something that the DNR will be exploring.*
- Several survey respondents brought up the issue of funding and questioned how the DNR will be able to progress toward the identified goals and strategies without additional dedicated funding.
  - *The primary goals and their associated strategies and measurable objectives are all focused around the core responsibilities of the DNR as outlined in the Constitution and existing statute. Therefore, a lot of the work that will be required to accomplish these goals is part of the existing work that DNR staff completes on a daily basis. As such, additional dedicated funding will not be needed to implement this portion of the land strategy. The strategic initiatives, however, are identified as those that will require dedicated resources (staffing and funding) to accomplish. The DNR will work to secure those resources as opportunities arise.*
- Many of the survey respondents indicated that they felt the second identified goal, “Provide access to outdoor public recreational opportunities,” should be the No. 1 priority goal.
  - *While access to public lands for outdoor recreation activities, and the infrastructure that supports those activities, is an essential responsibility of the DNR, the protection of Michigan’s natural and cultural resources is the priority goal. This is evident when it comes to the development of recreational infrastructure, such as trails, boat launches or campgrounds. All of this infrastructure is placed in such a way as to be protective of the natural and cultural resources. A trail does not get developed through a*

*sensitive fen. A campground does not get developed on a former Native American burial ground. Therefore, the department feels that the current order of goal priorities is appropriate.*

- A significant number of passionate recreationists were quick to point out that their specific recreation activity of choice was not explicitly identified in the draft comprehensive land strategy.
  - *While the department understands and appreciates the passion of the variety of recreation users throughout the state, it is not possible or necessary to mention every form of recreation in this document. Rather, there is an entire goal that is dedicated to recreation as a whole in all of its many forms. The mention of one form of recreation, as an example, does not indicate that the department will only be focused on that specific type of recreation. Providing access to public lands for all forms of recreation, in the appropriate locations and instances, is a primary focus of the land strategy.*
- Several comments were submitted with the suggestion that paying a fee should be required for all recreational activities on DNR-managed public lands.
  - *The issue of requiring a fee to be paid in order to use or recreate on DNR-managed public lands is not something that will be addressed in the land strategy document.*
- An overwhelming number of respondents provided comments related to the proposed strategy involving siting renewable energy, as appropriate, on public lands. Overall, a significant number of these respondents were opposed to the destruction of natural resources and loss of recreation land in order to accommodate renewable energy development.
  - *This response regarding the strategy on renewable energy development highlighted a need to revise the strategy and provide additional information and detail. The final updated land strategy has been modified to provide additional clarification and explanation regarding this issue.*
- Many respondents to the survey indicated that they are opposed to mining and mineral extraction, in general.
  - *The responsible management of all natural resources is one of the core responsibilities of the DNR, including management of the mineral resources owned by the state of Michigan. As such, the strategy that is focused on the responsible management of the state's minerals will remain part of the land strategy. As it has done for decades, the DNR will continue to manage this resource in a responsible and safe manner.*
- A significant number of respondents to the survey took the opportunity to express their displeasure and concern over clear-cutting of the timber resource on state forest lands.
  - *The State Forest Management Plan is the best source of information as it relates to the tactical-level decisions that are made to prescribe timber harvests. The land strategy will not get into this level of detail, but rather*

*will defer to the more detailed and tactical plan developed by Forest Resources Division.*

- Several comments were submitted by respondents who were overall opposed to the strategies outlined in the third goal, “Perform responsible natural resource management.”
  - *Management of the state’s natural resources is one of the core constitutional and statutory responsibilities of the DNR. This includes the responsible management of the timber resource, mineral resource and recreation industry. In addition, the DNR is focused on emerging opportunities such as renewable energy development (where appropriate) and carbon sequestration to assist in mitigating the impacts of a changing climate. This goal is a significant priority and will remain in the land strategy.*
- Some respondents to the survey noted that some of the strategies in the third goal, “Perform responsible natural resource management,” appeared to be contradictory. Specifically, it appears as though the DNR is promoting the use of fossil fuels through mineral extraction, while also focusing on mitigating climate change through the use of renewable energy and carbon sequestration.
  - *At this point in time, there is still a demand for fossil fuels, and they will continue to play a significant role as the world starts to shift to more renewable energy sources. Therefore, the DNR believes it is appropriate to ensure that both are addressed in the land strategy.*
- A few individuals who completed the survey made several suggestions and comments related to groundwater discharge and extraction.
  - *Groundwater discharge or extraction of the groundwater resource is something that is under the purview of the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy and is not something that will be addressed in the land strategy document.*
- Many comments submitted through the survey were related to the opposition of the use of off-road vehicles or ORVs.
  - *ORV use is one of the many forms of recreation that is enjoyed by a number of Michigan’s residents. As such, the DNR supports the use of ORVs in a responsible, safe manner and in accordance with all rules and regulations. On DNR-managed public lands, ORVs are permitted on state forest roads that are designated as open for ORV use and on ORV trails and routes only.*
- A significant number of survey respondents identified the need to expand DNR-managed public land ownership in southern Michigan.
  - *The DNR is in agreement that southern Michigan, the location of a majority of the state’s population, has the least amount of public land managed by the DNR. This has been recognized in the land strategy, and a strategy and measurable objective related to the expansion of public*

*land ownership in this part of the state has been included in the final land strategy document.*