February 9, 2017

TO: Natural Resources Commission  
Department of Natural Resources Management Team

FROM: Trevor VanDyke, Director, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources Legislative Update

This bill seeks to amend section 51501 and add section 51503c of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require 24 hour notice to a township supervisor and primary point of emergency contact of prescribed burns.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

This bill seeks to amend section 43536 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by adding section 43536b to provide any veteran who submits an application for a license to take game through a lottery, first preference in that lottery. This bill also provides a specific definition for a “veteran” as used in this added section.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, this bill would appropriate $47.6 million from the MNRTF for 27 acquisition projects (approximately $27.7 million) and 87 development projects (approximately $19.9 million). Total matching funds of $40.1 million result in total project costs of $87.7 million.

- This bill is before the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by amending sections 72108 and 73301 and adding section 73302 to allow the Department to become a rail-trail sponsor and to expand liability coverage to individuals conducting work on Department trails and other lands.

- The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.
SB 141 – Department of Natural Resources Budget – Sen. Green
This bill seeks to make appropriations for the Department of Natural Resources for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and to provide for the expenditure of the appropriations.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

If you would like to learn more about these and other bills, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at www.legislature.mi.gov.