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April 10, 2014

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

**SB 613 – Allows for Salvaging of Game Killed, or Injured and Euthanized, Following a Collision with a Motor Vehicle – Sen. Darwin Booher**

This bill seeks to add Section 40115 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow individuals to possess game killed, or injured and euthanized, following a collision with a motor vehicle without the need to possess a valid license or permit.

- This bill is currently before the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has concerns, but has not taken a position on this legislation at this time.

**SB 780 – Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund – Sen. Darwin Booher**

This bill seeks to provide a capital outlay supplemental appropriation for the Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) for the fiscal year ending September 20, 2014. The recommendations include a \$27.6 million appropriation from the MNRTF for 32 acquisition projects (\$19.0 million) and 44 development projects (\$8.6 million). Matching funds of \$18.9 million result in total projects costs of \$46.5 million.

- This bill is currently before the Governor for consideration.

**SB's 795-802 – Increases Penalties for Prohibited Species Violations and Adds Additional Prohibited Species – Sen's. Mike Kowall, Arlan Meekhof, Phillip Pavlov, Mike Green, Thomas Casperson, Howard Walker, John Moolenaar, and Goeff Hansen**

These bills seek to amend various sections of the Michigan Compiled Laws to increase penalty for violations of introduction of prohibited, restricted, genetically engineered or nonnative aquatic species and also includes "insect" and "aquatic plant" in the prohibited list. To include additional criminal penalties; forfeiture of property; suspension or revocation of nonpassenger commercial vehicle group designation, fishing, commercial fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses or permits.

- This bill is currently before the Senate Committee on Natural Resource, Environment and Great Lakes.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**SB 869 – Provides for the NRC to Establish the Bass Season Dates – Sen. Goeff Hansen**

This bill seeks to amend Section 48716 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to eliminate the prescribed statutory open season dates for black bass.

- This bill is currently before the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**SB's 873 - 877 – Provides for Pure Michigan Trails, Pure Michigan Water Trails and Pure Michigan Trail Towns – Sen's. John Moolenaar, Arlan Meekhof, Dave Hildenbrand, Goeff Hansen and Thomas Casperson**

These bills seek to amend various Sections of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow for the designation, definition, construction, operation and funding of Pure Michigan Trails, Pure Michigan Water Trails and Pure Michigan Trail Towns.

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

**SR 126 – A Resolution for the Recognition of the Importance of Trails in Michigan – Sen. John Moolenaar**

A Resolution to recognize the multifaceted importance of trails in Michigan and to celebrate the individuals and organizations who develop, maintain, advocate for, and promote this important resource within our state.

- This bill passed the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration supports this resolution.

**HB 5191 – Creates an Exemption for Wearing a Helmet on an ORV When Riding on Private Property – Rep. Bruce Rendon**

This bill seeks to amend Sections 81133 and 81147 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to exempt individuals who are operating an ORV on their own property from being required to wear a helmet. This exemption also extends to a family member of the owner who resides at the property or is an invited guest of the individual who owns the property. The bill does not extend this exemption to individuals who are less than 16 years of age.

- This bill is currently before the Senate.
- The Administration has concerns, but is neutral on this legislation.

**HB 5226 – Expands Crop Damage Permits to Include Bear– Rep. Ed McBroom**

This bill seeks to amend Section 40114 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to include bear as a species for which a crop damage permit can be issued. The bill establishes specific deadlines for responding to a request for a permit and also requires that only a person with a valid bear hunting license shall be allowed to shoot the nuisance bear.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation at this time.

**HB 5432 – Provides for a Change in the Definition of Native Swine– Rep. MacMaster**

This bill seeks to amend Sections 41301 and 41302 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to restrict the NRC from being able to add or delete livestock from the list of prohibited species; it adds native swine as a type of livestock and it defines native swine to mean, “swine born and raised in this state or legally imported into this state.”

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation at this time.

If you would like to learn more about these and other bills, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov).