

# Public Hunting on Private Lands 2009 – 2010



[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

**Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors**

# Hunting Access Program

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources leases private lands throughout southern Michigan for public hunting through the Hunting Access Program (HAP). This guide lists all property under lease through this program on pages 5 through 11. The lands generally are available on a first-come, first-served basis. To make sure you have a place to hunt, make contacts early if you are planning to hunt HAP lands.

The guide lists a farm headquarters where daily permits are to be picked up each day that you hunt the property. The locations listed include township and section numbers where the land is located. A township is six-mile square area with section numbers assigned. Maps of the county are available at bookstores and the county road commission.

Remember, you are a guest of the landowner when you use properties listed in this book. As guests, you are requested to register your hunting party with your host or at the host's self-registration site each time you visit the property. Annual permits are not permitted. **Appropriate conduct helps ensure your host will invite you to return next year.**

All guests in a hunting party are required to have a yellow hunter tag in their possession at all times when using the host's property.

Guests are required to return the hunter tags to the host or self-registration box after each day's hunt.

Do not register or take a daily permit if you are not actively hunting.

1. Observe all instructions of the landowner.
2. Know the property boundaries and do not trespass on adjacent property.
3. Do not block field access routes or drive in fields without the host's permission.
4. Leave no trash.
5. Place tree stands or build blinds only with the landowner's permission.
6. Observe all hunting and trapping rules and regulations.

A private land antlerless deer license for that Deer Management Unit (DMU) can be used on HAP lands. To purchase a private land antlerless deer license valid on HAP lands, if the landowner's number is not available, the phone number 999-999-9999 can be used.

**Tips for asking permission to hunt other private land:**

1. State law requires you obtain verbal permission from the landowner. Only the landowner can give hunting permission.
2. Obtain permission to hunt several farms. This assures you of a place to hunt if others are using the property or the landowner is not home.
3. Obtain permission well in advance of the time you plan to hunt. Do not wait until the last minute. Plan your visit early in the evening when the landowner, especially if a farmer, is likely to be home. If you will scout the area before hunting season, also request permission for that time.
4. Ask for permission by yourself or with one other person; do not take your hunting party up to the door. When approaching the landowner or family for permission, NEVER carry your gun and keep any dogs in your vehicle.
5. If you cannot visit the landowner in person, then write an appropriate and friendly letter. Do not just stick a small note on the door. Your letter may request a date/time when you can talk in person, or you can make arrangements by mail or telephone. Do so at landowner's preference.
6. Be prepared to provide your name and contact information and the dates and times when you would like to hunt a described portion of their land (e.g., the back 40 acres of the woods and cropland). Landowner may limit party size, ORVs or more.
7. Ask the landowner if there are any crop fields or other areas of the farm that should not be hunted.
8. Never shoot near farm buildings or where any people or livestock are living. Observe all safety zone areas – 450 feet from possibly inhabited structures.
9. Leave any gates you encounter the way you found them. If a gate is open, leave it open after you pass through. If a gate is closed, close it after you pass through.
10. Do not leave any trash. If you find litter already there, pick it up.
11. When the hunt is over, thank the landowner for the opportunity to hunt. They then will know that you have left the farm and will not worry about you being lost or stuck on their property.
12. It always is wise and polite to offer the landowner a portion of your harvest off their land, such as a piece of game or portion of venison once your game is cleaned (or butchered). This goodwill gesture, with the recommendations above, will help your relationship with the landowner. It also may help provide others with hunting opportunities from this landowner, and it helps build a positive image of hunting.

**Looking For a Place to Hunt?**

Check out the online maps that show public lands open to public hunting at [www.michigan.gov/gohunt](http://www.michigan.gov/gohunt)

**Interested in Enrolling in the Hunting Access Program?**

If your property is located in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula and if you are interested in receiving payment to allow public hunting on your property, you may wish to participate in the Hunting Access Program.

Landowners are free from liability as stated in P.A. 451, “No cause of action shall arise for injuries to persons hunting on lands leased under HAP unless the injuries were caused by the gross negligence of willful and wanton misconduct of the owner, tenant, or lessee.”

For an application and details, contact one of the Wildlife Division Management Unit Offices listed below. Please direct any questions or comments you may have regarding the Hunting Access Program to the Management Unit Supervisor at the following Department of Natural Resources offices:

County Where Farm is Located				DNR Mgt. Unit Office
Bay Huron	Isabella Midland	Saginaw Sanilac	Tuscola	Saginaw Bay 503 N. Euclid Ave. Suite 1 Bay City, MI 48706 989-684-9141
Genesee Lapeer	Macomb Monroe	Oakland St. Clair	Wayne	Southeastern 26000 W. Eight Mile Rd. Southfield, MI 48034 248-359-9040
Clinton Eaton Gratiot	Hillsdale Ingham Ionia	Jackson Lenawee Livingston	Montcalm Shiawassee Washtenaw	South Central 8562 East Stoll Rd. E. Lansing, MI 48823 517-641-4903
Allegan Barry Berrien	Branch Calhoun Cass	Kalamazoo Kent Muskegon	Ottawa St. Joseph Van Buren	Southwestern 621 N. 10 <sup>th</sup> St. Plainwell, MI 49080 269-685-6851

For information on Commercial Forest Lands, see page 14.

**The habitat type key for HAP lands is:**

- WW – Wetland Wildlife (ducks, geese)
- FW – Forest Wildlife (deer, squirrel, rabbit, grouse)
- FA – Farmland Wildlife (pheasant, rabbit, deer)
- CC – Cropped Land

Example: 20FW means 20 acres of land suitable for hunting forest wildlife species.

**Public hunting rights on select privately owned lands**

Various privately owned lands have had their hunting rights purchased by the state of Michigan. These lands are open to public hunting. Registration is not required but all applicable laws still apply. For additional information and a complete legal description of these parcels, refer to the DNR Web site.

Landowner Name	Farm Headquarters	Township/Sections	Habitat Type	Permits	Service Type
<b>ALLEGAN</b>					
Bolks, Ervin J. No Sunday Hunting	126th Ave. Just E. of 41st St., Dunningville	Heath, 27	74FW-5FA	8	Self Service Box
Kipen, Louise No Sunday Hunting	4129 27th St., Dorr	Salem, 23	2WWW-32FW-12FA-7CC	5	Mandatory Check-In
<b>BARRY</b>					
Peake & Sons, Ira	5000 Head Rd., Hastings	Hope, 4,5,8	5WWW-188FW-157FA-129CC	50	Mandatory Check-In
Rock, Fredrick S.	9725 Finkbeiner Rd., Middleville	Thornapple, 15,16,22,24	12WWW-105FW-127FA	20	Self Service Box
<b>BAY</b>					
Schnettler, Clara	Mt. Forest Rd, W. of Flajole, Rhodes	Mt. Forest, 7	160FW	16	No Check-in
<b>BERRIEN</b>					
Doughten, Howard	1665 Dayton Rd., Buchanan	Bertrand, Buchanan, Bert.-4,5; Buch.-31	28FW-108FA-175CC	31	Mandatory Check-In
Hacker, Larry	5844 Scottdale Rd., Berrien Springs	Berrien, Oronko, Royaltan, B-4;O-23,26;R-30	12WWW-277FW-18FA	30	Mandatory Check-In Check-In at Farm
Hass, Donald	4400 Bailey, EauClaire	Pipestone, 16	20FW-55FA	7	Self Service Box
Sinner, Alex	14967 S. Pardee Rd., Three Oaks	Weesaw 21	43FW-8FA-120CC	15	Mandatory Check-In

Landowner Name	Farm Headquarters	Township/Sections	Habitat Type	Permits	Service Type
<b>BRANCH</b>					
Flaherty, James	224 Grass Lake Rd., Coldwater	Ovid, 20, 29	3FW-55FA	6	Self Service Box
Grove, John H.	638 S. Fremont Rd., Reading	Alganssee, 31	8FW-81FA	10	Self Service Box
Parks, Joanne	1088 Brown Rd. at corner of of Phillip, Reading	Califronia, 3	20FW-115FA	9	Self Service Box
Smith, Sharon	across from 182 Stringtown Rd., Quincy	Alganssee, 1	8FW-81FA	5	Mandatory Check-In
Smoker, Ralph	678 W. Central Rd. Bronson	Bethel, 7	25FW-46FA	5	Mandatory Check-In
Wasikowski, Lucille	285 S. Snow Prairie Rd., Coldwater	Bethel, 9, 10	15FW-57FA	7	Mandatory Check-In
<b>CASS</b>					
Sparks Cedarlee Farm	57900 Penn Rd., Cassopolis	Penn, 10, 15	30WW-10FW-40FA	7	Self Service Box See Carl Sparks
Wright, James See Sparks Cedarlee Farms	57900 Penn Rd., Cassopolis	Penn, 10, 15	13WW-127FA	14	Self Service Box

Landowner Name	Farm Headquarters	Township/Sections	Habitat Type	Permits	Service Type
<b>GENESEEE</b>					
Laba, Michael	8467 Wilson Rd., Otisville	Forest, 17,20,21	2WWW-207FW-19FA-68CC	20	Self Service Box
<b>HILLSDALE</b>					
Penoyar, Lyllys	7611 W. Territorial Rd., Montgomery	Camden, 3,10	1WWW-27FW-69FA-42CC	10	Mandatory Check-In
Shinabery, Lela	Prattville Rd. 1/2 mi. E. of Coman Rd., Hudson	Wright, 11,14	79FA	6	No Check-In
Shinabery, Lela	Culbert Rd. E. of Waldron Rd., Hudson	Pittsford, 3	5FW-51FA	4	No Check-In
Townland Farms	6840 Burt Rd., Waldron	Ransom, Wright, R-15, Wr-19	133FA	10	Mandatory Check-In
<b>HURON</b>					
Pettit, Irvin	5416 McMillan Rd., Port Austin	Hume, Meade, H-33,34; M3,4	64FW-336FA	40	Mandatory Check-in
Peruski, John	corner of Huron Line and Parisville Rd., Minden City	Paris, 35	73FW	5	Self Service Box

Landowner Name	Farm Headquarters	Township/Sections	Habitat Type	Permits	Service Type
<b>INGHAM</b>					
Mikelonis, Gabriele	5406 Haynes Rd., Stockbridge	Bunkerhill, Henrietta, B-34;H-2,3	17WW-64FW-34FA-180CC	18	Self Service Box
<b>IONIA</b>					
Potter, Eleanore	1/4 mile E. of Bliss Rd. on Clinton Trail, Lake Odessa	Odessa, 17	21FW-92FA	11	Self Service Box
Sprague, Dale/Juanita	9150 Centerline Rd., Saranac	Boston, Keene, B-4;K-33	60FW-135FA-35CC	8	Mandatory Check-In
<b>KENT</b>					
Remer, Robert J.	3375 17 Mile Road, Cedar Springs	Solon, 26	3WW-14FW-59FA	5	Mandatory Check-In
VanderPloeg, Robert	1/4 mile N. of Finn Rd. on Alden Nash, Lowell	Vergennes, 9	3WW-41FW-54CC	11	Self Service Box
Wollander, Donald	14863 Keller, Cedar Springs	Spencer, 18	45FW-38FA-67CC	11	Self Service Box
<b>LAPEER</b>					
Anderson, Thomas	9731 Rich Rd., Mayville	Rich, 5	6FW-74CC	6	Self Service Box
Dipka, George	Approx. 0.6 miles east of Washburn Rd. on Brigham Rd. (on old farm lane), Davison	Hadley, 17,18	12WW-32FW-66FA	11	Self Service Box
Nelson, Robert	4375 W. Oregon Rd., Lapeer	Elba, 3,6	3WW-60FW-10FA-121CC	11	Self Service Box

Landowner Name	Farm Headquarters	Township/Sections	Habitat Type	Permits	Service Type
Thayer, William	672 Swaffer Rd., Mayville	Rich, 8	10FW-18FA-50CC	8	Self Service Box
White, Harold	9731 Rich Rd., Mayville	Rich, 6	21FA-217CC	10	Self Service Box
<b>LENAWEE</b>					
Shinabery, Lela	Packard Rd. 1/8 mi. E. of US127, Hudson	Medina, 7	4FW-2FA-91CC	4	No Check-In
<b>MONROE</b>					
Simon, Bernard	2486 Bunce Rd, Dundee In East Part of Dundee Twp.	Dundee (East), 5,8	30WW-105FW-109FA-108CC	25	Self Service Box
<b>MONTCALM</b>					
Hansen, L.A. No Driving on Land	9252 Barnes Rd., Greenville	Fairplains, 16,21,22	6WW-24FW-80FA-38CC	15	Self Service Box
Johnson, Stephen	19229 Stanton Rd., Pierson	Pierson, 26	5WW-20FW-48FA	7	Mandatory Check-In
Wyckoff, William	4282 W. Fenwick Rd., Greenville	Fairplains, 29,33	5WW-86FW-9FA	8	Mandatory Check-In
<b>MUSKEGON</b>					
Lund, James	1685 19 Mile Rd., Cedar Springs	Moorland, 25	20FW-40FA-36CC	9	Self Service Box

Landowner Name	Farm Headquarters	Township/Sections	Habitat Type	Permits	Service Type
<b>OAKLAND</b>					
Zeman, Belvia	840 Rose Center Rd., Holly	Rose, 21	4WWW-16FW-47FA-10CC	4	Self Service Box
<b>SANILAC</b>					
Kolodziej, Eugene	4444 Shabbona Rd., Snover	Evergreen, 13	40FW	4	Mandatory Check-in
Nicklas, Frank	795 S Goetze Rd., Carsonville	Washington 12, Sanilac 7	10FW, 326FA	25	Self Service Box
O'Mara, Daniel E.	1591 N Ridge Rd., Carsonville	Forester, 17	43FW-92FA	13	Mandatory Check-in
<b>SHIAWASSEE</b>					
Holzman, Margaret	Hibbard Rd. 1/8 Mi. E of Balcom Rd., Middlebury	Middlebury, 33	17WWW-49FW-69FA	13	Self Service Box
<b>ST. CLAIR</b>					
Langmesser, Kenneth	1730 Kennedy Rd., St. Clair	St. Clair, 22,27	25FW-45FA-74CC	12	Self Service Box
Zweng, Fred	6234 Meisner Rd., East China	China, 21	49FW-67FA	12	Self Service Box

Landowner Name	Farm Headquarters	Township/Sections	Habitat Type	Permits	Service Type
<b>ST. JOSEPH</b> Hotovy, Luke	14058 Drummond Rd., Three Rivers	Constantine, Fabius, C-3; F-34,35	7WWW-16FW-234FA	26	Self Service Box
<b>TUSCOLA</b> Kloc, Walter	5706 Shabbona Rd., Deford	Novesta, 20,29	17FW-13FA-48CC	7	Mandatory Check-in
Merkel, Kenneth	Corner of Brown and Fostoria, Mayville	Fremont, 35	53FW-15FA	7	No Check-in
Tunis, Charles	1738 Cemetery Rd., Deford	Novesta, Koylton, N-27;K-1	54FW-35FA-104CC	13	Mandatory Check-in
<b>VAN BUREN</b> Horton, Robert	1 mile N. of M-43 on 54th St., Bangor	Arlington, 5	37FW-44FA	8	Self Service Box

# Notes

Use this page to make notes on the property you will be hunting,  
or draw a simple map of the area that includes important features and distances

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## **Commercial Forest (CF) Lands**

Nearly 2.2 million acres of privately owned forests enrolled in the CF program are accessible by foot to the public for fishing and hunting. The CF lands are not posted or signed as commercial forests and may be fenced and/or gated. The presence of a fence or gate does not prohibit public access to CF lands for fishing or hunting. The owner may restrict public access during periods of active commercial logging to ensure public safety. Other than foot access for the acts of hunting or fishing, activities such as (but not limited to) camping, leaving bait piles, leaving trap overnight, using motorized vehicles, and damaging or injuring vegetation (e.g. cutting/nailing), require the landowner's permission. Commercial activity on CF lands is not allowed for any purpose other than forestry. Legal land descriptions of land listed in this program are available on the DNR Web site at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr), under Forests, Land and Water.

### **Use CF Lands with Respect**

Although the general public has a right to fish, hunt and trap on CF lands, the property is privately owned and subject to normal private property rights. Unless you have permission of the property owner, the right to fish, hunt and trap on the land does not extend to associated activities such as the following:

- Littering.
- Camping.
- The cutting of shooting lanes, or cutting or destruction of brush, trees or other plants for any purpose.
- The use of nails, bolts, wire, tree steps or other material or activities which harm, lessen or destroy the value of trees, or create a potentially hazardous wood-harvesting condition.
- The temporary or permanent abandonment of property including tree stands or other hunting apparatus.
- The construction of blinds or the construction or placement of other structures, except for the gathering of dead materials found on the ground.
- Target shooting or sighting-in firearms.
- The use of ORVs or other vehicles on private property. If vehicles are allowed by the property owner, care should be taken to avoid blocking access to roads or parking areas.

A person engaging in an activity not allowed by a property owner may be criminally or civilly liable, or both.

If you have questions about this program or specific CF lands, contact the nearest DNR office or DNR Forest, Mineral and Fire Management, P.O. Box 30452, Lansing, MI 48909-7952, or call 517-373-1275.



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Forest, Mineral & Fire Management

## COMMERCIAL FOREST (CF) SUMMARY

(Part 511 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended)

**Purpose:** To provide an incentive to private landowners to retain and manage forest land for long-term timber production.

### Benefits to the Landowners:

Landowners do not pay ad valorem general property taxes. Instead, the landowners pay a specific tax of \$1.20 per acre annually. The State of Michigan pays an additional \$1.20 per acre on behalf of the landowner to the county annually.

### Some Requirements:

- Listed land must be devoted to commercial forest management.
- A minimum of 40 contiguous forested acres in one ownership must be available for listing.
- Listed land must be open to the public for fishing, hunting and trapping.
- The landowner must have a forest management plan written by a registered forester or a natural resources professional that describes how the listed land will be managed and that schedules treatments such as reforestation and timber harvesting.
- Listed land cannot be used for agriculture, mineral extraction, grazing, industry, developed recreation, residences, resorts, commercial purposes, or developmental purposes.
- Land managed for Christmas trees is not eligible.
- Newly planted trees must have survived through two growing seasons before the planted land can be considered for listing.

### How to Apply:

- Application forms are available from the DNR and on the DNR webpage.
- Landowners should discuss their land with a DNR Forester before applying to list the land.
- Applications must be postmarked no later than April 1 to be considered for listing on January 1 of the following year.
- A non-refundable application fee of \$1.00 per acre up to a maximum of \$1,000 must be submitted with the application.
- Landowners must provide a written forest management plan and certify such a plan exists and is in effect.
- Landowners must certify that they own the timber rights for the timber on the land.
- Landowners must provide a copy of the recorded deed or recorded land contract evidencing ownership of the land to be listed.

### Timber Management:

- Landowners must notify the DNR in writing prior to any tree cutting, tree harvesting, or tree removal on listed land.
- All timber management, tree cutting, and reforestation on listed lands must be done according to the written forest management plan in effect for those lands. A violation of the plan is also a violation of the statute.

### How to Withdraw:

- Application forms are available from the DNR and on the DNR webpage.
- A withdrawal application fee must be submitted with the application form. The fee for withdrawing 200 acres or less is \$200. The fee for withdrawing 201 acres or more is \$1.00 per acre up to a maximum of \$1,000.
- A withdrawal penalty will be assessed. Using tax information provided by state, county and township governments, the DNR will calculate the withdrawal penalty and bill the landowner after receipt and processing of the application.

### Other:

- If the landowner's CF specific tax is not paid on listed lands each year, those lands may be sold at tax sale and the DNR may remove the land from the program.
- Any document that transfers title to CF land must say that the land is subject to the Commercial Forest statute.
- When title transfers occur on CF land, the landowner must notify the DNR, in writing, within 30 days of the ownership change by providing the DNR with a copy of the recorded deed or recorded land contract transferring title.
- The only buildings allowed on listed land are those used for commercial forest management purposes.

### Violations of the Statute:

Violations of the statute are misdemeanors subject to fine and/or imprisonment. Harvesting, cutting or removing forest products in violation of the statute, and having a value of more than \$2,500.00, is a felony subject to fine and/or imprisonment.

This is a brief summary of the Commercial Forest statute. The statute, applications and all forms are available upon request and on the DNR webpage at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr). All requests for applications or information should be directed to:

FOREST, MINERAL AND FIRE MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30452  
LANSING MI 48909-7952

Telephone (517) 373-1275

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the State's natural resources for current and future generations.

The Natural Resources Commission is the governing body for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In providing a strategic framework for the DNR to effectively manage the state's resources, the NRC works closely with a broad cross-section of constituencies to establish and continuously improve natural resources management policy.

**Thank you for purchasing a Michigan hunting license. Your hunting license dollars help restore and improve habitats for wildlife species, advance research on wildlife and wildlife-borne diseases, foster programs that help ensure access for public hunting, support hunter safety education and much more. We encourage you to keep hunting and to share your experiences with others. In doing so, you can do your part to keep our state's hunting heritage alive for future generations.**



The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act places an excise tax on firearms, handguns, ammunition and archery equipment. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service apportions these funds to state wildlife agencies to be used for wildlife management, research, habitat acquisition, game area and shooting range development and hunter education. Since its inception in 1937, Michigan's share of the Wildlife Restoration funds has reached almost \$150 million.

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 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, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909-7528 or the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Cadillac Place, Suite 3-600, 3054 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202 or the Division of Federal Assistance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

For information or assistance on this publication, contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909-7944. This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

**Report All Poaching  
Phone: 800-292-7800  
TO REPORT VIOLATIONS**

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