

Wildlife Division 2018

Annual Report



Most of the information in this report is for fiscal year 2018, which is October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018.

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HELLO,

First off, thanks for picking up and reading the Wildlife Division's newest annual report. We have been publishing an annual report for nine years and I believe it is the perfect vehicle to highlight the work we do for wildlife and the people of Michigan.

This year's report is a bit different than previous years, and we have taken the opportunity to highlight our work within the regions, sections, and units that make up the Wildlife Division. All of our efforts are guided by the Division's Strategic Plan (GPS). For that reason, in the financial section, you will see a breakdown of fund expenditures by each of our strategic plan goals.

Not surprisingly, despite accomplishing many important tasks for wildlife conservation, a significant amount of our effort focused on wildlife disease, especially chronic wasting disease. In order to accomplish what needed to be done, the Wildlife Division received help from across the entire department, especially from the divisions of Marketing and Outreach and Law Enforcement. Among other things, staff worked tirelessly to check deer in the field, process samples for testing at the wildlife laboratory and answer calls and emails from concerned hunters. Our goal was and continues to be the protection of the deer resource and Michigan's cherished hunting traditions.

Not highlighted in this annual report are our new Wetland Mitigation Banking Program, and our efforts to support passage of the Recovery of America's Wildlife Act at the federal level. Both of these activities are pointed at identifying new ways to fund wildlife conservation in the 21st century. These new ways are increasingly important as the existing fund sources - hunting licenses and Pitman-Robertson funds - continue to decline. Suffice it to say, Wildlife Division is committed to assuring that Michigan's outstanding wildlife resources will be conserved for the use and enjoyment of all, now and for generations to come.

Again, heartfelt thanks for your support of Michigan's wildlife! Your license dollars and involvement are truly appreciated. It is an honor and a privilege to serve you and to provide the best possible science-based recommendations to promote your interests.

Sincerely,
Russ



Dr. Russ Mason
Chief, Wildlife Division



Special Report

Chronic Wasting Disease

CWD

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological (brain and nervous system) disease of deer, elk and moose. Now present in 26 states and two Canadian provinces, the disease was discovered in Michigan's free-ranging deer in 2015. CWD is now one of the highest priorities for the department, especially in Wildlife, Marketing and Outreach, and Law Enforcement divisions.

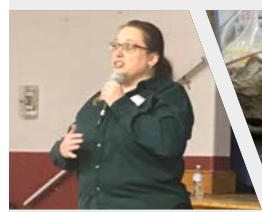
In October 2017, DNR hosted a CWD symposium that brought together roughly 200 wildlife scientists and other experts from across the country. The first ever national symposium shared the latest science around CWD. Shortly after the symposium, the DNR and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) established a nine-member CWD Working Group. This group was charged with developing recommendations on additional steps and actions to mitigate CWD in Michigan.

Throughout April and May of 2018, the DNR hosted a series of public engagement meetings across the state. These meetings provided opportunity for the DNR to share the latest information about CWD, while encouraging the public to offer their best ideas on how to slow the disease. More than 650 people attended these meetings. DNR received comments from 361 hard-copy surveys and 135 online surveys.

In May, all the information that was received along with the latest CWD science was presented to the NRC. The NRC used the information to pass CWD regulations later in the summer.

In addition to all the regulations work that occurred throughout 2018, which was handled by many staff within the Wildlife Division, division field staff worked tirelessly to prepare large numbers of deer check stations and drop boxes. Field staff also worked with the Wildlife Program Support Section staff to hire a substantial number of temporary workers for check station duties. The Wildlife Disease Laboratory prepared lab materials and ordered testing kits, and trained taxidermists. DNR communication staff developed and disseminated CWD information across the entire state and answered thousands of emails and phone calls. It should be noted that Wildlife Division staff (along with other DNR divisions) spent an enormous amount of time and effort working on this important issue.


In 2018, more than 30,000 deer in Michigan were tested for CWD thanks to the hard work of DNR divisions, partners, and hunters!



- Compiled a list of 162 references relating to deer/CWD management available to hunters
- More than 30,000 deer tested for CWD
- 56 sampling stations established within a 16-county area
- 13 sampling locations in the Upper Peninsula established
- Over 20 taxidermists partnered to help
- Over 700 radio spots regarding CWD
- Answered 1000's of CWD emails and phone calls



Northern Lower Peninsula



100 Years of Michigan's elk

The conservation community celebrated a birthday in 2018. Wildlife, Forest Resources, and Parks and Recreation divisions along with members of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation saluted Michigan's 100-year-old wild elk population. The healthy and abundant elk population that exists today is a result of sound management, habitat protections, and increased law enforcement. In 1918, seven elk were brought from the western United States to areas near Wolverine. Their successful reintroduction and continued presence made this 100-year anniversary a year-long party with a variety of activities to boost awareness of elk, which included an art poster competition, changing the wildlife habitat license plate to an elk, and holding elk-themed events!

Fletcher Grasslands

The Fletcher grassland is a 2000-acre non-forested complex that is unique in size and is entirely on public land. Historically, the area was called the Fletcher Sharp-tailed Area, and was heavily managed specifically for sharp-tailed grouse. Today, management work in this area is planned, tested, and evaluated. Controlled burns had been the preferred management technique because it mimics natural disturbance phenomenon. A mulching head tractor was used this past season to cut brush and shrubs in a more deliberate manner. The tractor was rented and operated by staff and was efficient getting in and out of areas.

Because staff want to retain the Fletcher grassland area as open lands, management will need to continue annually across the complex, distributing the work across field seasons. Different techniques will need to be considered due to budget, weather, and personnel. Staffs' hard work benefits current wildlife species like eastern bluebird, sandhill crane, badger, upland sandpiper, smooth green snake, white-tailed deer, wild turkey and may lead to possible reintroduction of sharp-tailed grouse in the future.



Reedsburg Dam

Significant maintenance upgrades are underway at Reedsburg Dam, a highly-used recreation area, in Missaukee County. The large impounded lake and boat launch are a day-use attraction, while the state forest campground is great for overnight guests. Kayaking and fishing are popular uses, and because the location is just west of US127, it is an easy place to visit.

In the fall, waterfowl hunters and trappers are drawn to this large water resource including its backwaters and thousands of acres of public land that surround Reedsburg Dam. During 2018, water levels were lowered, temporarily affecting users, but allowed for a complete replacement of the maintenance walkway, repair to the damaged concrete and steel, and the addition of protective stone. The project will be finished in 2019 when weather allows, giving time for rain to start filling the impoundment before fall recreation activities.

Cooperation with Planning on Beaver Island

The Wildlife Division is the primary administering division for state-owned lands on the Northern Lake Michigan islands, including Beaver Island. Over the last year, partners worked to clear land trails, opened a new non-motorized water trail around Beaver Island, surveyed for and treated invasive plants and insects, and developed a landscape level plan. These projects are the result of residents, local and tribal governments, cultural and natural resource experts, and non-governmental agencies partnering together. The landscape level planning on the island has improved substantially due to the efforts of a new subcommittee, The Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association (BIATA). They are focusing on management and protection on the island. The BIATA entered into an agreement with the Wildlife Division to clear overgrown and windthrown land trails to improve recreation and access to the island's wildlife and unique resources. Most trails on Beaver Island were developed long ago for access to timber, but today they are used by hunters and other recreationists as a trail network around the island. A land use order was needed to allow camping along the coastal lands, and in 2018, the Beaver Island Water Trail officially opened.



Bovine Tuberculosis

Although bovine tuberculosis (bTB) is not a new subject to the northeast Lower Peninsula, a dedicated staff member to work with stakeholders to reduce prevalence of the disease is. In early 2018, a position responsible for building relationships with partnering agencies and key stakeholders with regard to bTB was established. Working with Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, USDA Wildlife Services, and MSU Extension, the Wildlife Division is applying a new team approach to deer management. A local and consistent presence in Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, Oscoda, and Presque Isle counties is benefiting local cattle farmers, deer hunters, and the community. Long-term engagement and transparency are key for the management of the deer herd in this area.



Southeastern Lower

Pollinator Day at Holly State Recreation Area

In November, staff at the Holly Wildlife Field Office hosted an enthusiastic group of 4th and 5th graders from Holly Elementary School. Together with partners from Pheasants Forever, the students learned about the importance of grasslands, grassland wildlife, and pollinators like bees and butterflies. The students visited Holly State Recreation Area to see grassland habitat, and helped plant a pollinator meadow. They had a blast and can say they had a part in conservation!



Pump Station at Shiawassee River

Wildlife Division staff have been working with partners to replace an important pump station at Shiawassee River State Game Area. The aging B2 pump station on the north end of the game area that services the 1-5, 6-8, and 9-14 fields as well as Wahl Road Marsh was under construction for much of 2018. Staff worked with Ducks Unlimited, Spicer Group, and the State of Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget to complete this project. Several conservation partners worked with the Wildlife Division to successfully acquire a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant in 2016 and DNR Wildlife Habitat Grant in 2017. The completed project will improve water flow in the game area and will help to provide optimal waterfowl habitat across several hundred acres at this significant game area.

Youth Pheasant Hunt at Shiawassee River

On October 27, twenty-five young hunters gathered in Saginaw County for an exciting day of pheasant hunting. The day dawned cloudy and cool, but the dreary weather did not dampen their enthusiasm. The youth gathered early in the morning to learn about gun safety and to practice target shooting at the Saginaw Field and Stream Club. From there, the festivities moved to the nearby Shiawassee River State Game Area where the youth took to the grasslands to hunt pheasants.

Several mentors were in the field to assist the youth as they worked the fields searching for roosters. Pheasants Forever graciously provided two birds per youth hunter, which were planted on the game area for the hunt. Sixteen birds were harvested. After a morning of hunting and shooting, lunch was provided at the St. Charles Wildlife Field Office and prizes were awarded. One lucky youth won a taxidermy package so they can have a mount of their rooster.

The event was held in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Saginaw Conservation District, the State Chapter and Saginaw Chapter of Pheasants Forever, and Saginaw Field and Stream Club. Funding to support the hunt was provided through a grant to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.



Becoming an Outdoorswoman Managed Waterfowl Hunt

On November 2 and 3, the Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area (SWA) hosted a Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) Managed Waterfowl Hunt. Five ladies attended the event including women from Ohio and Indiana. The small group size allowed mentors and participants to get to know each other one-on-one. The event was organized by staff at the Nayanquing Point SWA and Wildlife Division staff from local offices were able to participate and share their knowledge. All the participants were pleased with the material provided as well as the managed waterfowl hunt. The ladies harvested five birds. Following the hunt, the participants learned how to properly clean their birds. This was the second year that Nayanquing Point hosted a BOW Managed Waterfowl Hunt and they hope to continue this tradition for many years to come.

Monitoring Black Terns on the St. Clair Flats

In the southeast, staff have been working with partners to monitor and study a nesting colony of black terns on the St. Clair Flats. This colony is the largest black tern colony in Michigan! Black terns nest on floating mats of vegetation in marshes and the habitat that the St. Clair Flats provides, being the largest freshwater delta in the world, is some of the best!

Over the past several years, black terns have been declining greatly throughout their range, including in Michigan, and the cause of this decline is not yet known. The Wildlife Division, along with Audubon Great Lakes, Detroit Audubon, and the Detroit Zoo are helping to monitor these unique birds, band them, and try to determine why the population has decreased in recent years. The team hopes to discover whether declines are occurring on breeding territories, or whether losses are happening on wintering grounds in the tropical seas west of Central and South America.

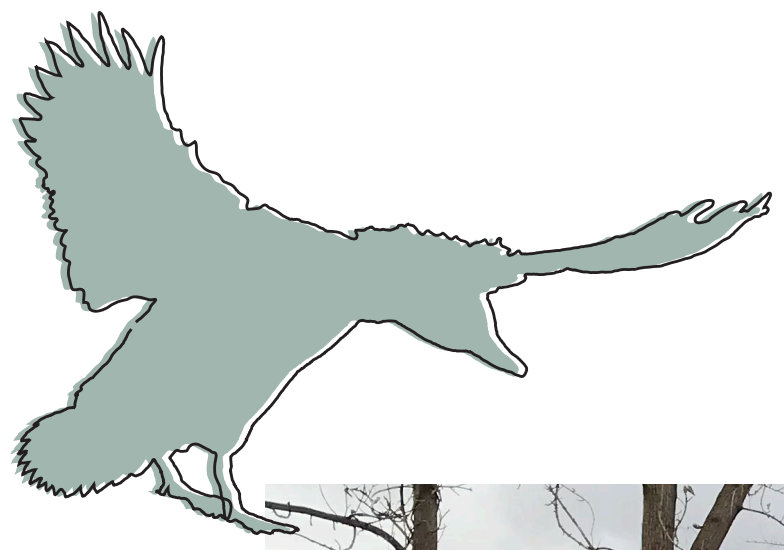




Southwestern Lower

Outreach Activities

The Southwest Region has been involved in a wide range of outreach activities, which have included multiple chronic wasting disease public meetings, attendance at the Grand Rapids Hunt'n Time Expo, and several hunter recruitment activities. The region hosted youth rabbit hunts at Crane Pond State Game Area (SGA) and Flat River SGA; youth duck hunts at Muskegon SGA, Maple River SGA, and Allegan SGA; youth turkey hunts, a ladies pheasant hunt, a youth pheasant hunt at Gordon Guyer SGA; and youth outdoor days at Muskegon SGA and in Barry County. These outreach activities help the region reach thousands of people. The Muskegon Youth Event alone had over 2,000 participants.



Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) surveillance in the wild deer herd was one of the top priorities and work activities for the Southwest Region. An ambitious goal was set for the region to collect and test approximately 15,000 deer from 16 counties. The region met and exceeded that goal by testing over 19,000 deer.

This intensive but successful surveillance effort reinforced that CWD does exist in Montcalm and Kent counties. New for 2018, one positive CWD deer was identified in Eaton County and another in Gratiot County. CWD was not identified in the following southwest counties: Calhoun, Hillsdale, Ingham, Mecosta, Newaygo, Muskegon, Ottawa or Shiawassee.

Wildlife Division unveiled a suite of new and expanded initiatives in 2018 to tackle CWD surveillance goals that impacted the region. These included: deployment of 21 deer head drop boxes open 24/7, trained staff at 18 private deer processing facilities, establishment of 20 deer check stations, and coordination with the Wildlife Disease Laboratory and Forest Management Division regarding deer head transport logistics.

This intensive effort could not have been successful without cooperation of deer hunters, meat processors, taxidermists, landowners, NRC commissioners, legislators and other citizens and agencies!



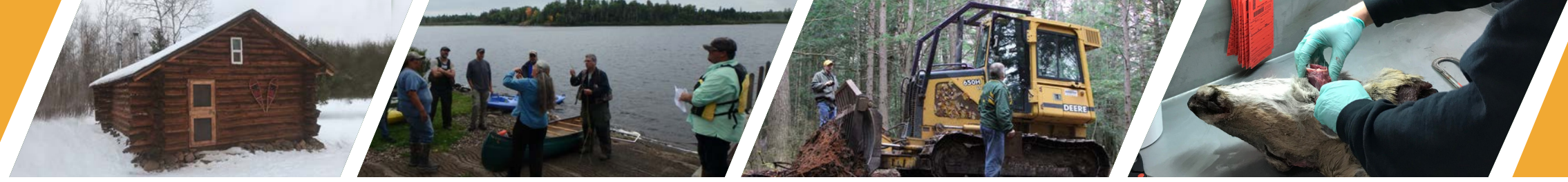
Otsego Township Dam Project

On August 30, the DNR hosted a ribbon-cutting event to mark the completion of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-ordered cleanup of the Otsego Township Dam impoundment. The state-owned site had been closed since 2016 to facilitate safe operations during the cleanup. The property is now open to the public for river access and activities including hunting, fishing, birdwatching, kayaking/canoeing, and hiking. The clean-up activities at the site included removal of the Otsego Township Dam, removal of PCB-contaminated sediments and soils from the river channel and banks, and restoration of the banks using native vegetation. This clean-up site is a 1.7-mile stretch of an 80-mile cleanup in Allegan County on the Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund site.



Habitat Priorities

Habitat management on State Game Areas and private lands is a high priority for the Southwest Region. Through a partnership with the Forest Resources Division, the region was able to improve over 1,000 acres of habitat through selective timber management and prescribed burning. This habitat work will improve habitat for grouse, turkeys, deer, and songbirds. In addition, the region conducted habitat work on hundreds of acres of grassland, savannahs, and forest areas. Grasslands were planted and mowed, forest openings were created and improved, and food plots were planted on over 10,000 acres. This valuable habitat work ensures great recreational opportunities for hunters, trappers, wildlife-viewers, and photographers.



Upper Peninsula

Deer Camp Survey

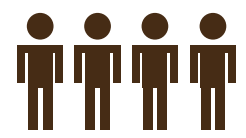
A deer camp survey is used to track deer sightings, harvest, and hunter opinions during the 16-day firearm deer season. This information helps the region understand the size, trend, and composition of the deer herd as well as to hear the issues that are important to hunters. Survey results are used for decisions on Upper Peninsula (U.P.) deer regulation and quota recommendations.

To encourage responses and support of the survey, several U.P. sportsmens' groups provide prizes to responding camps.

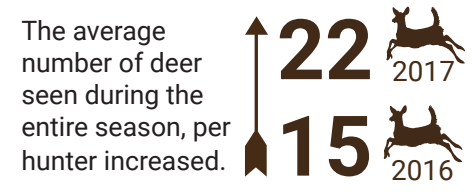
In 2018, surveys were sent to 628 contacts.
486 camps with 1,962 hunters participated.

Deer camps have been casually recruited since the early 1990's by:

- word of mouth
- camp visits
- club membership lists
- banquet recruitment



Approx. 4 members per camp



Over half of the hunting effort was completed by the first Saturday of the 2017 season, which was the fourth day of the season.

CWD Lymph Node Removal by Field Staff

The U.P. has been collecting deer heads for chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing near the Wisconsin border since 2016. Shipment of heads to the Wildlife Disease Laboratory in East Lansing for testing was time consuming due to distance. As a result, rather than shipping the entire deer head downstate, U.P. field staff piloted a process to remove the lymph nodes locally and ship them to the Disease Lab. During the 2018 summer, the Disease Lab staff trained U.P. personnel in lymph node extraction from deer harvested by farms that were incurring deer damage. Staff processed and shipped tissues to the lab from over 600 heads throughout the summer. The detection of CWD in the U.P. during October prompted the division to quickly transition the U.P. from piloting lymph node removal to being fully operational during the 2018 deer seasons. A processing and shipment schedule was developed to ensure efficient use of resources while upholding the department's promise to have test results available to hunters within 14 days.

Due to excellent training and oversight by the Wildlife Disease Laboratory, U.P. field staff managed to process and ship tissues from over 865 CWD submissions during the firearm deer season, an operational change resulting in both quality customer service and improved efficiency of DNR resources.

Deer Movement Study

To be the best prepared for the possibility of CWD an understanding of deer movements in the Upper Peninsula was needed. A cooperative research program began in January 2017 with Mississippi State University.

The project began with deer captured in four different winter complexes in the west U.P.; three of those complexes were along the Wisconsin border. GPS collars were placed on 190 deer and from the predator prey study another 87 deer were also available giving a total sample size of 277 deer.

The collared deer showed observations of spring migrations of up to 48 miles. Knowing high winter density and long-distance migrations increase CWD transmission risk, the movement information coming from this ongoing study is critical for determining UP disease management zones. At this time, deer camera trap surveys are underway to estimate deer abundance. Population estimates will be generated in late 2019.

Partnership with Large Commercial Forest Land Managers

The U.P. is known for its large expanses of undeveloped land, mostly owned by state and federal government. A large percentage of the private land is owned as commercial or industrial working forests. Dialogue between the DNR and the major Commercial Forest Act (CFA) landowners in the U.P. was lacking and a real effort to improve the working relationships occurred. Starting in 2014, semi-annual "Partner" meetings took place and since then have grown in both size and diversity of groups engaged together at one time. Discussions range from habitat initiatives, to grant opportunities, to deer regulations, to field trips to see scarification projects in person. Feedback from those that have been involved has been positive and they support continuing this active partnership.



Wild Rice Planting Initiative

Wild rice is culturally important to tribes and provides a rich food source for aquatic animals, especially waterfowl. During 2018, the department participated in an on-going partnership with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) to restore wild rice throughout the U.P. Staff participated in several local and regional wild rice conferences and KBIC provided staff an in-field workshop on wild rice habitat, preferred growing conditions, and planting strategies. Through the wild rice partnership, over 13,000 pounds of wild rice was planted impacting 15 water bodies covering 170-acres of water.



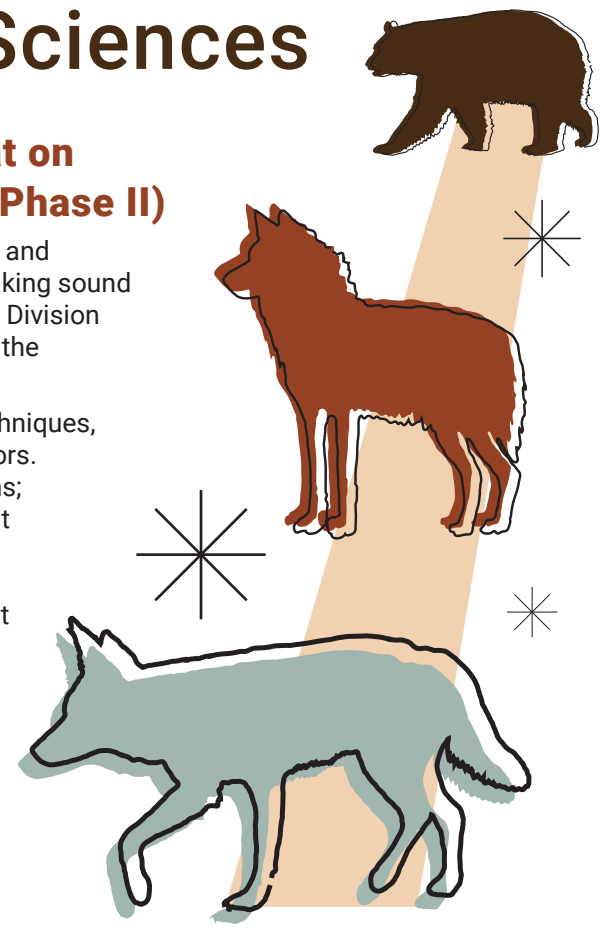
Biological and Social Sciences

Role of predators, winter weather, and habitat on white-tailed deer fawn survival in Michigan (Phase II)

Deer survival is influenced by many factors including predators, habitat, and weather. Understanding the effects of these factors is important for making sound deer-management decisions for the Upper Peninsula deer herd. Wildlife Division partnered with researchers at Mississippi State University to document the importance of each of these factors on deer survival.

Researchers used a combination of radio telemetry, mark-recapture techniques, and field track surveys to estimate deer mortality due to various predators. Coyotes were the most important predator for both adult deer and fawns; wolves were a major predator of adult does but were the least important fawn predator; and bears were a major fawn predator but were not observed to kill any adult deer. Bobcats killed few deer. In combination, coyotes and wolves can affect deer populations since coyotes may hunt gaps between wolf territories to increase deer mortality.

While temperature and snow throughout winter influence deer winter survival, years with late spring snowmelt are likely to result in high deer mortality, even if early winter is mild. Severe winters weaken deer; weak deer are more susceptible to predation and produce weak offspring which, in turn, have lower survival. This means that predation can have a larger impact after a hard winter even if predator populations remain constant.



Local-scale assessment and monitoring of deer populations following a major mortality event

Epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) is an infectious disease that is transmitted to deer through the bite of a small fly called a midge. After a severe EHD outbreak in 2012, the Wildlife Division partnered with researchers at Michigan State University to examine the response of localized deer populations. Deer abundance was estimated immediately after the outbreak and for the next five years. Stakeholders, including deer co-op members, were directly involved in data collection, which both reduced project costs and also improved stakeholders' confidence in abundance estimates. The results suggest that EHD outbreaks have localized impacts to deer abundance near wetlands, but that deer populations can increase quickly after an outbreak.

As a result of this research, the impacts of EHD outbreaks can be anticipated and measured, allowing wildlife managers to address stakeholder concerns regarding potential declines in abundance. Assuming deer are not limited by food resources and other factors like hunter harvest remain consistent, populations are able to recover.

The Wildlife Division had **26** active research projects during 2018

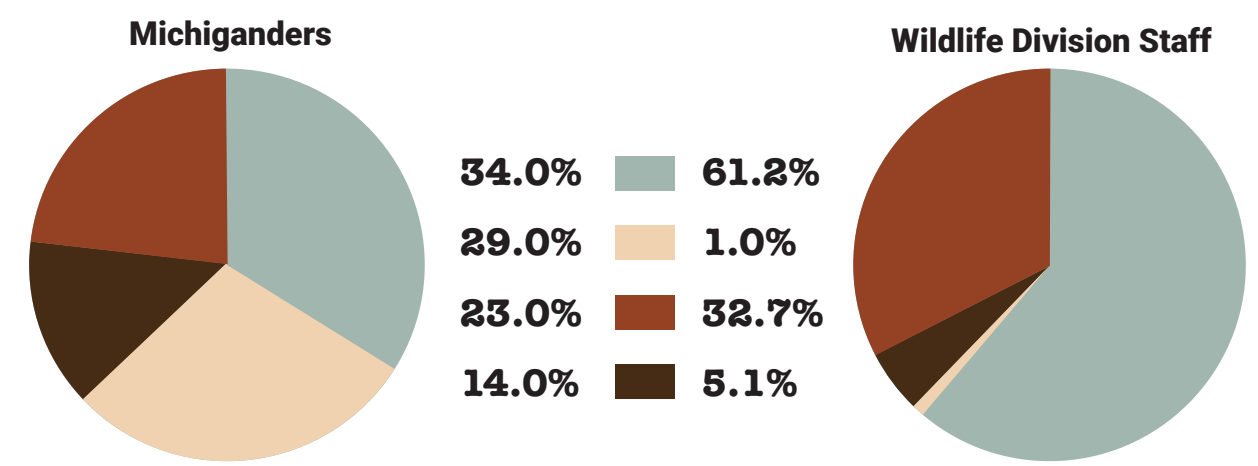
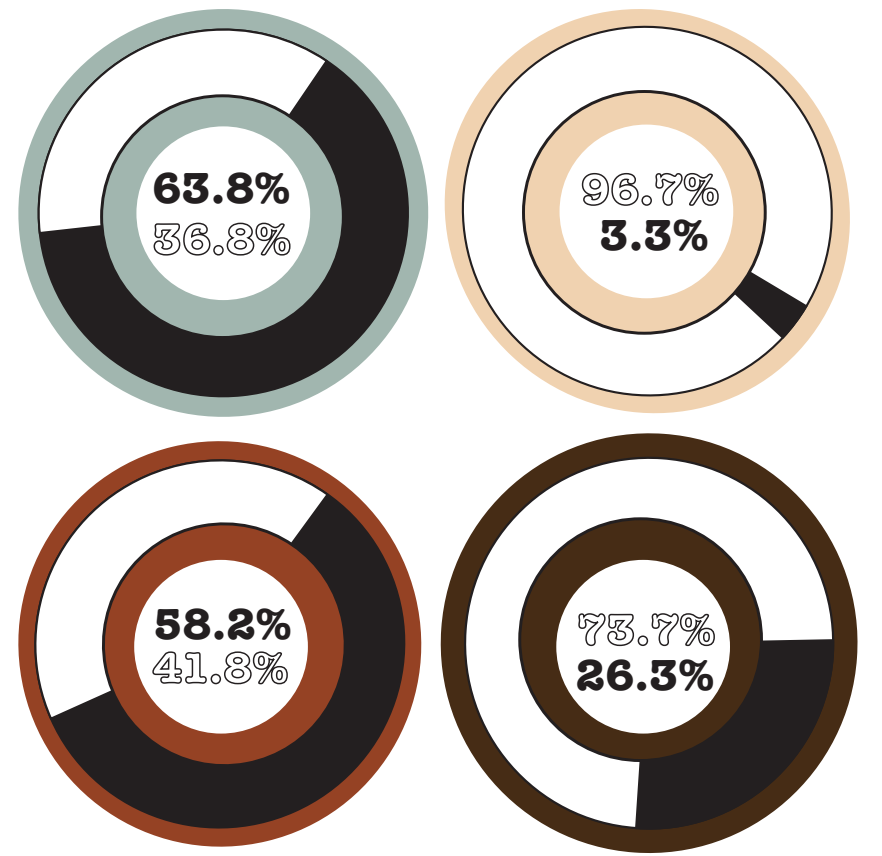
Michigan Wildlife Values

How people value wildlife may predict their positions across a wide range of issues. These values are key in understanding the public's goals and desires for wildlife conservation. The Wildlife Division partnered with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Colorado State University to survey Michiganders and learn how they feel about wildlife.



- Michiganders
- Wildlife Division Staff

- Traditionalist**
Believe wildlife should be managed primarily for human benefit
- Mutualist**
View wildlife as part of their extended family, and believe wildlife deserve rights and caring
- Pluralist**
May hold with traditionalist or mutualist depending on the situation
- Distanced**
Tend to be less interested in wildlife





Planning and Adaptation

Game Area Reviews

2018 marked the fourth year of the Wildlife Lands Management Review System. Four State Game Areas (SGAs), two in the Southeast Region and two in the Southwest Region, are evaluated annually. Current management practices are reviewed and improvements are recommended. These reviews are conducted by teams that include biologists from both regions to allow for collaboration and learning opportunities. During 2018, reviews took place at Nyanqing Point State Wildlife Area and Holly State Recreation Area in the Southeast Region, and at Cornish and Pentwater SGAs in the Southwest Region. Some overriding themes include: partnerships that allow critical work to be accomplished, addressing invasive species, keeping up with recreational uses, and some of the challenges of working on areas far away from offices where personnel and equipment are stationed. These reviews also highlight the diversity of lands the Wildlife Division manages, and the dedication and knowledge of local staff.

Additionally, in 2018, two master plans were completed in the Wildlife Division for the Northern Lower Peninsula. These were for the Betsie River SGA in Benzie County and Gladwin Field Trial Area in Gladwin County. Master plans set the strategic management direction for an area for 10 years. They are finalized after an internal, tribal, and public review process.

Adapting to Change

Staff, tribal members, and partners attended a workshop hosted by the Wildlife Division in September at the Rose Lake Glassen Shooting Education Center with the goal to help wildlife managers adapt on-going projects to changes in climate. The workshop was structured around a draft "menu" of wildlife management adaptation options developed by the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science, the USGS Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center, the Michigan DNR Wildlife Division, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

30 participants worked on nine projects including:

- Promoting oak regeneration at Barry SGA
- Conserving turtles on small lakes for tribal values
- Preparing for more migrating waterfowl at Crow Island SGA
- Managing for massasauga rattlesnakes at a land conservancy site
- Attracting waterfowl as climate makes sharecropping harder at Allegan SGA

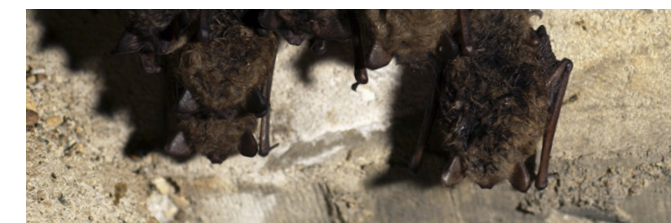
Participants developed specific actions that will increase their chances of meeting their wildlife management goals despite challenges from a changing climate.

State Wildlife Grants Awarded

Two competitive grant proposals submitted to the State Wildlife Grants program within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were awarded, which will bring almost \$500,000 to Michigan to help conserve species in greatest conservation need and their habitats.

Vegetation Inventory for Southern Michigan SGAs

Managing wildlife requires knowledge of the location and quantity of their habitats. In order to quantify wildlife habitats, the Wildlife Division must understand the vegetation and natural communities on southern Michigan State Game Areas (SGAs). To this end, the Wildlife Division initiated a project in 2009, with Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) to inventory vegetation on all southern Michigan game areas. MNFI ecologists, using the same mapping and inventory protocols used on our State Forests and State Parks, have completed over 380,000 acres of inventory, essentially completing a current vegetation inventory for southern Michigan SGAs. The information provided by the inventory effort is critical to helping wildlife biologists develop and implement SGA master plans and to help implement the Wildlife Action Plan.



Progress in Creating a Habitat Conservation Plan for Bats

The Wildlife and Forest Resources divisions continue to work with their counterparts in Minnesota and Wisconsin to develop a habitat conservation plan (HCP) to help offset the steep declines of four species of cave-dwelling bats impacted by white-nose syndrome. The plan will integrate reasonable actions to conserve year-round bat habitat with sustainable forest management. It also will allow state forestland managers and private landowners to comply with the Endangered Species Act requirements for listed species. To date, five of nine HCP chapters have been drafted. Key stakeholders including Weyerhaeuser, Forest Landowners Association, and National Council of Air and Stream Improvement have reviewed and commented on the first 3 chapters. All sections of the draft HCP will be completed, published in the Federal Register, and available for public review by the end of 2019.

Project 1

1

Restore and enhance at least 500 acres of public and private grassland, prairie, and savanna habitat in Michigan and provide resources to continue with long-term monitoring of key wildlife.

This work will build on past investments we have made to conserve:



butterflies



birds



eastern massasauga

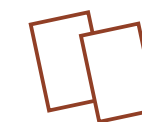
It will also support other conservation efforts, such as the Pheasant Restoration Initiative.

Project 2

2

Proactively assess how Blanding's turtles are doing in Michigan and outline conservation actions needed to conserve them.

To assess the turtle's populations, we will use:



traditional surveys



genetic analyses

This will help inform the future Endangered Species Act listing decisions by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

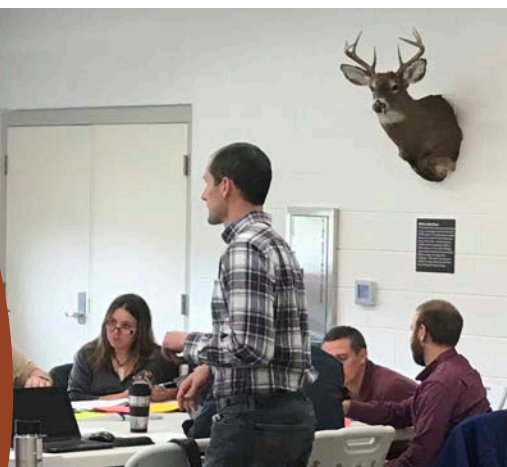
The Regional Monarch Strategy

The Midwestern states have been identified as important to monarch breeding.



- has provided guidance and leadership to the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to draft the Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy.
- will continue building and strengthening partnerships across the Midwest while simultaneously identifying monarch and wild pollinator habitat goals for Michigan.

Most Midwestern states, including Michigan, are drafting state specific monarch conservation strategies. Michigan hosted two Monarch Summits to gather input and recommendations from experts and a diverse set of partners on how to conserve monarchs in our state. A Michigan Monarch Conservation Strategy was developed in May 2017.





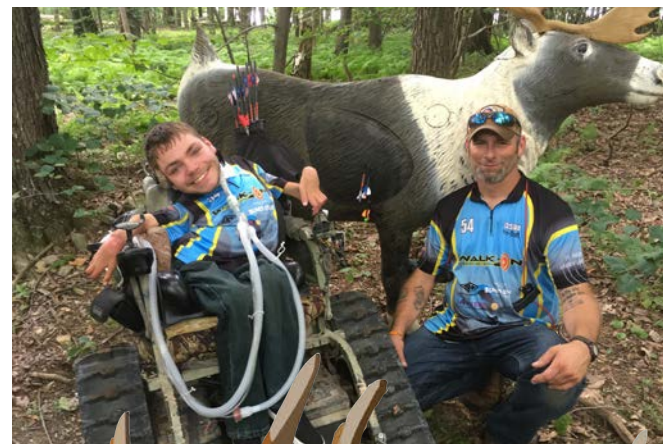
Policy and Regulations

Bear and Elk Hunt Transfer Program

The bear and elk hunt are two of Michigan's premier hunting opportunities, and demand is always much higher than the licenses available. While it may take years of applying to be drawn, some hunters will find themselves unable to take advantage of a license the year they are drawn. Therefore, every year, the Wildlife Division processes requests from bear and elk license drawing winners to transfer their hunt to another hunter.

The Hunt Transfer Program was created in 2002 to provide a way for these individuals to share their drawing success with hunters whose chances otherwise would be restricted by time, such as young hunters who have not yet built up the points to be drawn, and hunters with advanced illnesses who may not have many more years to hunt. This successful and popular program was created at the request of Michigan's bear hunters to help introduce young hunters to the sport when they would otherwise have no chance to participate.

Hunters who are selected for a bear or elk license can choose to transfer their hunt either to an eligible hunter they know or opt to have the division transfer it to a person on the transfer program's waiting list. Hunts cannot be sold or traded, only donated. Applicants have just over four months to apply to get on each year's waiting list and are drawn at random to receive transferred licenses that are donated. While donors lose their accumulated drawing points or chances when they give up their hunt, they know they have given another hunter a gift they will always remember.



Wildlife Regulation Setting

The Wildlife Division is responsible for developing and updating regulation recommendations to provide protection for wildlife and its habitat as well as recreational opportunities for Michigan residents. While the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) has final authority for approving regulations, the division is entrusted with ensuring that the NRC receives the most complete and correct information possible to inform their decisions.

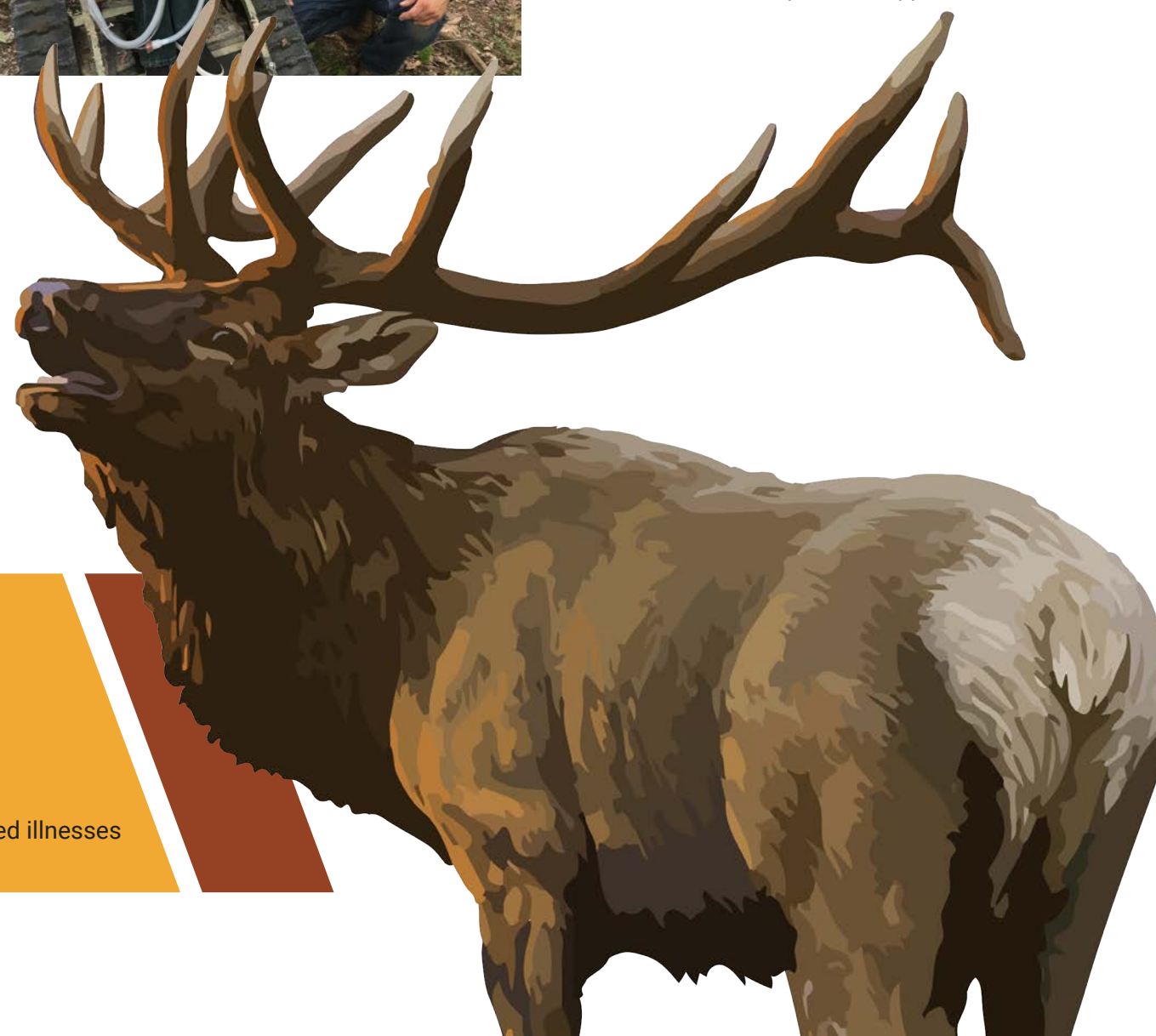
The Policy and Regulations Unit (PRU) ensures that each recommendation is properly prepared, vetted, and presented to the NRC for their consideration. This begins by working in cooperation with species specialists who identify and research regulatory issues. When necessary, the PRU conducts additional consultation with stakeholders and other DNR staff to ensure that any potential conflicts are identified and resolved before drafting the department's regulation recommendation. The PRU shepherds the recommendation through the entire regulatory process, helping staff prepare to present the recommendation to the NRC, tracking and responding to concerns from the NRC and stakeholders, and ensuring that all necessary department approvals are obtained.

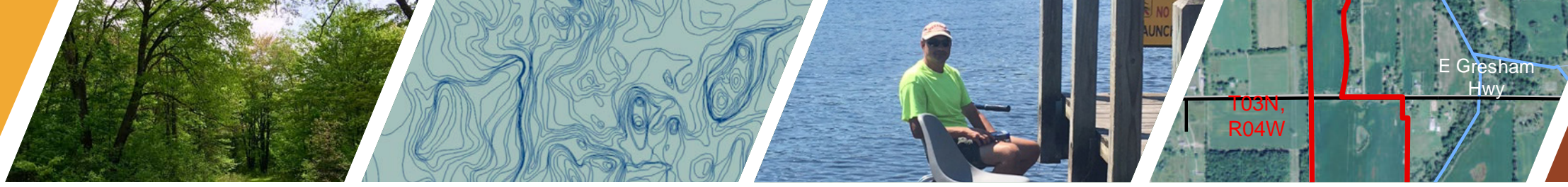
15 regulation recommendations were created and approved in 2018

1. Chronic Wasting Disease Response Measures for Deer in Kent and Montcalm Counties
2. Common Merganser Control Permit and Regulations
3. Falconry Regulations
4. Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons
5. Elk Regulations
6. Public Act 03 of 2018; Introduction of New 3-Day Nonresident Small Game License with Waterfowl License Issuing Rights, and Public Act 04 of 2018; Allow Mentored Youth Hunters to Purchase Additional Licenses
7. Extension of Beaver and Otter Season in the Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Peninsula
8. Deer Management Assistance Permit Regulations
9. Furbearer Regulations
10. Squirrel Season Dates
11. Open/Closed Deer Management Units
12. Falconry Season Dates for the Take of Certain Migratory Birds Technical Change
13. Antlerless Deer License Quotas
14. Chronic Wasting Disease Regulations
15. Pierce Road Unit Special Hunt Opportunities at the Sharonville State Game Area

2018 Hunt Transfer Program

Elk Hunt	Bear Hunt	
40,000	54,400	Applicants in the drawing
200	7,140	License quota
5	110	Hunts transferred to young hunters
1	9	Hunts transferred to hunters with advanced illnesses



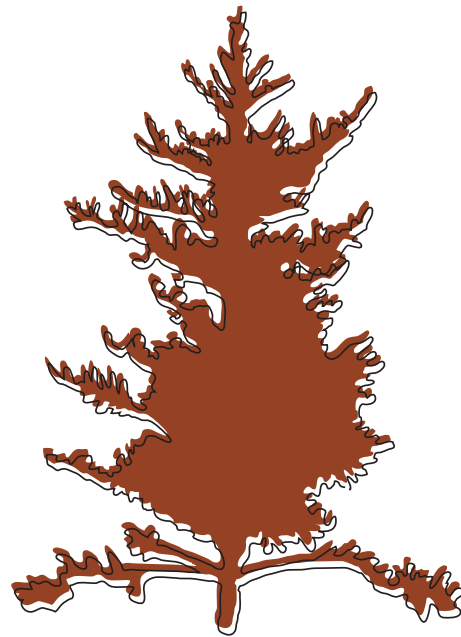


Public Lands Administration

The Public Lands Administration (PLA) Unit focuses on preserving and protecting Wildlife Division administered lands, which are intended to provide habitat for wildlife and a place to pursue wildlife related recreation. The PLA Unit staff has the experience and expertise to handle concerns or issues with administering public lands. The unit strives to take the burden of this work off the shoulders of field staff so they can focus on conserving wildlife and managing habitat. To that end, the unit reviews and processes requests for land exchanges, leases, easements, and use permits; determines state ownership through title searches, land surveys, and drafting legal descriptions; and prepares paperwork to meet State and Federal obligations.

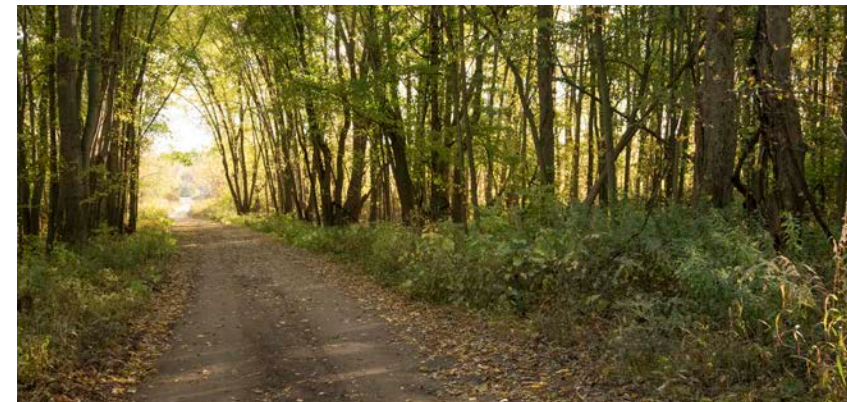
Purchasing Public Land for Wildlife-Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grants

In 2018, the division was successful in obtaining 3 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grants exceeding \$973,000 for land acquisition totaling 854 acres for the Muskegon and Lost Nations State Game Areas, and for the creation of a new state game area in Eaton County. Real estate appraisals will be conducted and offers will be made to the landowners. If the offers are accepted, the properties will be presented to the DNR Director for final approval before the land is purchased. After the land has been acquired, it will be available to the public for hunting, trapping, and other wildlife-related recreation.



Classification of State Forest Roads on Southern Michigan State Game Areas

Local engagement was a significant component of the process to inventory and classify 89 miles of state forest roads on southern Michigan State Game Areas as open or closed to off-road vehicle use per Public Act 288. These state forest roads are, by definition, already open to conventional vehicle use by the public. Comments from the public will be evaluated annually.



Local engagement:

- stakeholder meeting
- public meetings
- opportunities to provide comments to online and printable maps

Trespass Resolutions

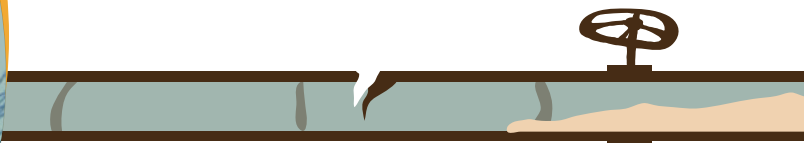
A total of 17 trespass cases were closed by Wildlife Division in the fiscal year. This includes four cases within the Houghton Lake Wildlife Research Area. The applicants and their predecessors had constructed driveways across narrow strips of public land located between their property and Jeffs Road. The sale of the four parcels totaling 1.81 acres provided legal access to their homes and cleared up the encroachments.

After several years of inactivity, the Department's Trespass Resolution Team was reactivated this year. Representatives from Wildlife, Forest Resource Management, Parks and Recreation, Law Enforcement, and Finance and Operations divisions and Offices of Minerals Management are meeting quarterly to ensure consistency and efficiency between department cases.



Survey Work

The survey crew continues to assist local field offices with clarification of property boundaries and with providing elevation contours for engineering designs. The crew now has depth sounding equipment that can map the contours of lake bottoms. This technology determines if pipes are buried, filled with sediment, or damaged, and can be helpful with determining dredge/fill volumes.



Completed Survey Projects

- 50 Wildlife Division
- 14 Parks and Recreation Division
- 3 Forest Resources Division



Public Outreach and Engagement

Wildlife Classroom Curricula

During the 2017-18 school year, five different wildlife curricula were offered for kindergarten through high school students.

1. Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife (K – 5th grades) had 843 educators register to participate reaching over 46,800 students.
2. During Deer Camp 2017 (2nd – 4th grades), 54 educators reached approximately 4,400 students.
3. Michigan's Wondrous Wetlands and Waterfowl (6 – 8th grades) had 65 educators registered reaching over 4,500 students.
4. Also, for middle school students, A Year in the Life of a Michigan Black Bear had 87 participating educators who reached an estimated 5,856 students.
5. Elk University curriculum (9 – 12th grades) had over 6,100 high school students participating under instruction of 112 educators.



Do you have what it takes to build a home for wildlife?

"What in the Wild" is a new game system developed by the Wildlife Division for children and families to learn more about wildlife found in Michigan and their habitat needs.

"What in the Wild" consists of a deck of 120 cards and rules for five different games. Cards contain plant and animal species and the food, water, shelter, and space they need to survive. Much like wildlife conservation in the real world, "What in the Wild" focuses on cooperation, collaboration, or side-by-side competition rather than combat and conflict to succeed. Games include something for everyone with activities like cooperative ecosystem building or a race to assemble a habitat to meet a specific species needs.

Proceeds from the sale of "What in the Wild" are used to distribute copies of the game to educators across Michigan for use in their classrooms to complement the Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife curriculum.

New Fur Harvester Digest

For the 2018 hunting and trapping seasons, regulations for fur harvesting were published in the new Fur Harvester Digest. A fur harvester license allows Michigan residents to hunt and trap furbearing species – species that are typically harvested for their pelts. Nonresidents can also harvest furbearing species in Michigan, except for bobcat, otter, fisher, marten, and badger.

Hunting and trapping of the 17 different species of furbearers that may be harvested in Michigan is highly regulated. The fur harvesting regulations were placed in a separate digest focused specifically on these regulations for the convenience of the approximately 25,000 fur harvesters in Michigan.

New regulations included in the 2018 Fur Harvester Digest were bobcat bag limits, changes to the fisher and marten bag limit and season dates, as well as foothold trapping near exposed bait restrictions.

Wildtalk Podcast

Join the Wildlife Division staff chew the fat and shoot the scat on the new Wildtalk Podcast!

The podcast is a new way to keep customers informed of the wildlife management and conservation work going on in Michigan. The first episode of the Wildtalk Podcast was released in June of 2018.

During each month's episode, listeners hear about what is going on around the state with wildlife related news and updates. A new guest joins the hosts each month, and the hosts also answer questions during a segment of the show called the Mailbag.

New episodes are released the first of each month and can be accessed on Apple Podcasts or through Google Play. Listeners can also access episodes on their computer through the DNR's website.

Four episodes were released in 2018 with 6,641 listens cumulatively.



Deer Management Workshop in Northeast Lower Peninsula

Wildlife staff held a deer management workshop in Alpena in September 2018. The workshop consisted of 20-minute presentations on a variety of deer management topics. Topics included the benefits of co-ops, habitat improvements, data collection techniques, and DNR grants. Many partners helped to provide a wide array of expertise on these topics. The goal of holding this, and future workshops in northeast Michigan, is to address bovine tuberculosis through better deer management on private lands. Additionally, Wildlife Division staff hope to increase engagement on deer related issues by building relationships with area residents.

FY 2018

Top visited Websites

- Hunting Landing Page 779,588 visits
- Michigan Snakes 59,782 visits

High Engagement from GovDelivery

General Hunting	Deer	Waterfowl	Engagement Rate
64%	58%	50%	
100	71	40	Emails sent



Top 3 YouTube Videos

1. Celebrate 100 Years of Michigan's Wild Elk 14,770 views
2. 2018 Spring Turkey Regulations 6,635 views
3. Expiring Antlerless Tags Explained 3,614 views

Top Wildlife YouTube video of all time

- 60-Second Snakes: Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake 251,871 views



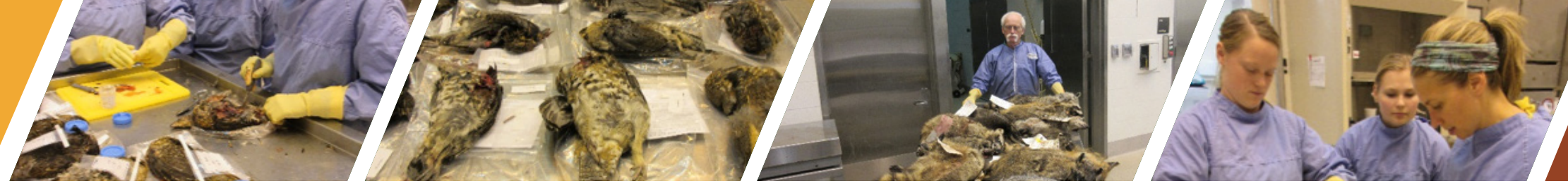
Wildlife Division's Twitter

3,869 followers
292 tweets
778 engagements



DNR's Facebook

182,546 followers
Top 3 reacted to wildlife-related posts based on reach, were part of the #KeepMiWild campaign about fawns.



Wildlife Health/Disease Lab

30,000+

CWD Tests

35,000+

TB Tests

1,200+

Bird & Mammal Necropsies

12 lab staff

- Wildlife Veterinarians
- Wildlife Pathologist/Biologist
- Lab Scientists
- Lab Technicians
- Department Technician
- Lab Assistants
- Student Assistant (seasonal)
- Non-career Lab Assistants (seasonal)

Confirmed Positives

63 raccoons

17 striped skunks

6 coyotes

5 gray fox

1 red fox

Canine Distemper

Since 2015, the Wildlife Disease Laboratory has seen a drastic increase statewide in canine distemper cases in wildlife, with most cases occurring in raccoons. Canine distemper is a fatal virus that causes neurological disorders (e.g., seizures, lethargy, activity in daylight hours, lack of fear of humans) and is often mistaken for rabies. All animals displaying these signs are tested for rabies prior to being examined by the lab. Ninety-two animals from 38 counties were confirmed positive. While humans are not at risk of contracting canine distemper, domestic dogs are susceptible but can be protected by being vaccinated.



Ocular discharge in a raccoon with canine distemper

West Nile Virus

West Nile virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne virus first detected in Michigan in 2001 and subsequently identified in over 680 wild birds and mammals in the state. Of the 187 animals submitted for testing in 2018, 121 were positive including 45 corvids (blue jays and crows), 26 hawks and owls, 10 ruffed grouse, and seven bald and golden eagles. Humans are susceptible to WNV and detection of the virus in wildlife allows public health officials to alert communities to take precautions against mosquito bites.

The Wildlife Division, in collaboration with the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources, developed a pilot study this year to understand the impacts of WNV on grouse populations in the Upper Great Lakes region. The objectives of this study are:

1. Estimate exposure to WNV in ruffed grouse.
2. Correlate exposure to WNV with active infection of WNV in the same bird.
3. Determine percentage of actively infected ruffed grouse that are becoming sick or dying from WNV infection.
4. Improve our understanding of the potential impacts of WNV on ruffed grouse populations in the Upper Great Lakes region.

Grouse hunters were selected to collect samples in the state, and 500 kits were mailed to these hunters. They were asked to complete a data sheet and collect blood in the field and submit these along with the breasted-out carcass to the lab. One hundred-eighty samples were collected and processed by the lab, and the diagnostic testing, being performed at the Southwest Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study in Athens, Georgia, is underway.



Fun Facts!

The lab processes more than 3,600 teeth from bear and furbearers to determine age and reproductive status to aid in setting management and harvest goals. Various other species are also processed in addition to these on a limited scale.



The lab's genetic program now houses over 59,000 biological samples from 15 species in over 40 separate projects. In 2018, the program distributed white-tailed deer tissue samples to four separate federal and university groups to assist with chronic wasting disease (CWD) research. In-house work was started with white-tailed deer to create a statewide dataset for population genetics and determination of prion protein genotypes for CWD positive individuals to answer questions about patterns of CWD transmission in related deer and deer family groups.



Wildlife Program Support

Program Support
staff
administered

\$45 million+ budget & 31 federal grants

120+ Conservation Partnership Agreements

Equipment and Facility Inventory

Program Support staff ensure equipment and facilities are accounted for and track new infrastructure projects. Infrastructure includes technology, equipment, vehicles, and pumps, which all help staff conduct daily work and create and improve wildlife habitat. In addition, equipment and facilities are maintained and upgraded as needed with an annual safety and inventory inspection.



Wildlife Permits

Beginning in 2018, Wild Animal Meat Processors were required to obtain a free permit from the department to aide in communication on hunting and disease related information.

Also in 2018, a Merganser relocation program was created, and a new policy was developed to make the Project Control Permit less time consuming for Pesticide Applicators using restricted use pesticides.

Privately Owned Cervidae

Raising deer in captivity is jointly regulated by the DNR and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). The sixth annual DNR-MDARD-Captive Cervid Industry meeting took place in 2018 with over 100 attendees.

As of April 2018, Michigan has

328 registered facilities



Permits Issued

Total New	Permit Type
3,295	Road Killed Salvage Permits
551	Commercial Meat Processor Permits
311	Commercial Hunting Guide Permits
303	Fox Hound Training
294	Canada Goose Round UP (USDA Issued)
261	Canada Goose Nest/Egg (USDA Issued)
242	Migratory Bird Depredation Permits (USFWS Issued)
241	Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Control (Field Issued)
169	Project Control Permits
109	Field Trials on State Land
74	Falconry-Trapping Permits from below
56	Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Control Business
56	Private Land Field Trials
55	Out of State Dog Bear Permits
49	Permits to Hold Wildlife in Captivity
42	Threatened and Endangered Species
19	Scientific Collector's
13	Special Dog Training Areas
10	Wildlife Rehabilitation
10	Goose Contractor
6	Game Bird Hunting Preserves
6	Falconry
5	Common Merganser Site Permits
2	Common Merganser Contractor
1	Temporary Holding of Deer
6,180	Total for FY18

Professional Development

Making strategic investments in employee development is vital for strengthening teams and guaranteeing continued success of the division. Career Development University (CDU) is a training program unique to the Wildlife Division that provides a variety of educational courses for employees of all experience levels and positions.

CDU offered a total of 60 training courses to employees from internal Wildlife Division instructors, external instructors, and other inter-agency courses.

The first of its kind, a joint professional development meeting was held in 2018 with Wildlife and Forest Resources division full-time employees. The meeting was structured around enhancing professional skills, communicating vision and values, and building critical working relationships.



The Wildlife Division hired approximately

200 seasonal short-term positions, including:

Student assistants, state workers, non-career wildlife assistants, and non-career laboratory assistants. Staff also organized "Day in the Life" job shadowing opportunities to help high school and college students gain wildlife experience, and administered unpaid internships.



Wildlife Species Management

Moist Soil Management Workshop

Moist soil management is a wetland habitat management technique that provides important annual food resources for breeding and migrating waterfowl, waterbirds, and shorebirds. There is significant need to provide increased and varied food resources for spring and fall migrating waterfowl and there is potential to incorporate this management technique on state and federally managed wetlands.

The Waterfowl and Wetland Program worked with the Southeast Region in September 2018 to host a Moist Soil Management Workshop.

Who: Forty-four attendees from several regions and sections within the Wildlife Division, the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge and Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, Ducks Unlimited, Michigan State University Fisheries and Wildlife students, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, and members of the Shiawassee Flats Citizens and Hunters Association and other waterfowl hunters.

- What: Attendees gained knowledge and experience in:**
- waterfowl nutritional needs
 - moist soil management techniques plant and aquatic invertebrate identification
 - monitoring techniques
 - managing hunter perceptions of moist soil management.

How: Attendees were treated to classroom and field lectures from Dr. Rick Kaminski, an internationally recognized expert in waterfowl ecology and management and James C. Kennedy from the Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation Center at Clemson University. Field trips to Shiawassee River State Game Area and Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge to view current moist soil management occurred.

Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative

The Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative (MPRI) is a 10-year project which celebrated its eighth season in 2018. This multi-partner conservation initiative seeks to restore and enhance Michigan pheasant habitat, populations, and hunting opportunities on private and public lands. The MPRI works by acquiring state and federal resources to assist landowners in improving wildlife habitat on their properties and by improving habitat on selected state game areas, recreation areas, or other public lands.

Technical and financial assistance provided

- DNR**
22 landowners with 540 acres of improved habitat
- MPRI Farm Bill Biologists**
601 landowners with 5,639 acres of improved habitat

- 12** Pheasant Cooperatives actively improving habitat
- 30** Cooperatives in development
- \$200,000+** granted to MPRI projects through the Wildlife Habitat Grant Program
- 129** wetland acres restored

Field Work Completed (in Acres)

grasslands enhanced	grassland established	food plots planted	wetland acres enhanced
1,960	297	342	443
5,702	282	11,250	800

● On State Game Areas
● MPRI Coalition Partners Help

Governor's Edition Duck Stamp

The Michigan Duck Hunters Association (MDHA), in cooperation with the DNR, introduced the first ever special Governor's Edition Michigan duck stamp and print in 2018. This special edition featured a pair of American wigeons in flight by wildlife artist Christopher Smith and Governor Snyder's signature. Only 100 copies of the Governor's Edition print were available along with 200 copies of the special edition stamp. MDHA coordinates the Michigan waterfowl stamp program in partnership with the DNR. MDHA is a non-profit organization dedicated to waterfowl and wetland conservation. Proceeds from stamp and print sales are used to fund MDHA wetland habitat projects, with 10% used to match DNR funding for purchasing, restoring, and enhancing wetlands.



Common Merganser Control Program

2018 was the first operational year of the Common Merganser Control Program. Five northern Michigan lakes participated and two contractors were permitted to conduct control activities. A total of 295 common merganser *Mergus merganser* hens and ducklings were removed from the five lakes and relocated to suitable release sites. This program was a result of concerns voiced by residents of several northern Michigan lakes that swimmer's itch was negatively impacting recreation on lakes and local economies. Since previous research indicated that common mergansers are an important host for the parasite that causes swimmer's itch, there was a desire by several lake associations to control these waterfowl. The Wildlife Division convened a core team of diverse stakeholders to co-develop a policy and program for common merganser control, and used an interest-based approach that recognized multiple and diverse interests in the issue. The Wildlife Division continues to work closely with the core stakeholder team to make improvements to the program, clarify requirements, identify new release sites, etc. The collaborative effort continues to be key to the success of the program.

Adopt-a-Game-Area

Initiated in 2017, the Adopt-a-Game-Area program was created as a new position in Pheasants Forever to accelerate grassland restoration on state lands. This program is a partnership between the DNR, Pheasants Forever, and the Hal and Jean Glassen Foundation, which allows individuals and organizations to sponsor grassland habitat projects on state lands they use and appreciate.

Support of this program will provide valuable nesting habitat, brood-rearing habitat, foraging habitat, and winter habitat for a wide range of wildlife including deer, turkeys, pheasants, ducks, cottontail rabbits, songbirds, and pollinators.



Game areas accepting sponsorships:

- Allegan
- Adams Township
- Cornish
- Dr. Gordon Guyer-August Creek
- Gratiot-Saginaw
- Maple River
- Nayanquing Point
- Pinconning Township
- Petersburg
- Port Huron
- Rose Lake
- Sharonville
- Shiawassee River
- St. Clair Flats
- St. John's Marsh
- Verona
- Thumb Mini-game areas.

2018

FINANCIAL SUMMARY Wildlife Division

The Wildlife Division plans work according to specific strategic plan goals. Below are the amount spent for each goal.

APPROPRIATIONS BY FUND

General Fund	7,125,200
Federal	25,158,800
Game & Fish	11,937,300
Other State Funds	592,800
DRIP	1,717,100
Turkey	905,400
Nongame	427,400
Total	47,864,000

EXPENDITURES BY FUND

General Fund	5,236,646
Federal (Annual)	20,806,445
Federal (Competitive)	1,724,927
Game & Fish	13,629,926
DRIP	1,892,289
Turkey	719,148
Nongame	332,991
Other State Funds	1,262,730
Total	45,605,102

EXPENDITURES BY GOAL

Goal 1	12,318,371
Goal 2	13,076,989
Goal 3	1,059,745
Goal 4	1,121,581
Goal 5	6,266,597
Goal 6	11,379,103
Goal 7	382,716
Total	45,605,102

- Goal 1** Manage for healthy and sustainable populations of wildlife.
- Goal 2** Manage habitat for sustainable wildlife populations and wildlife-based recreation.
- Goal 3** Administer and promote effective stewardship of lands for wildlife habitats and wildlife-based recreation.
- Goal 4** Enhance sustainable wildlife-based recreation use and enjoyment.
- Goal 5** Improve and maintain public communication, strong relationships, and partnerships.
- Goal 6** Foster and adopt effective business practices.
- Goal 7** Develop and implement systems that lead to continuous improvement in how we work.

FUNDING SOURCES

FEDERAL APPORTIONED FUNDS

These funds are automatically apportioned to states, provided they meet certain eligibility requirements. Although transferred to the states in the form of grants, the states do not have to compete for these funds. These funds are particularly important because states can count on the monies being available and can plan for funding staff and long-term projects, as the level of funding is relatively predictable.

- Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act Grants (PR)
- State Wildlife Grants (SWG)
- Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, Traditional Conservation Grants

FEDERAL COMPETITIVE FUNDS

These are funds that certain federal agencies make available through a competitive application process. The types of funds and the funding programs available can vary from year to year. These opportunities pose planning and budgeting challenges because of the uncertainty in the Wildlife Division's abilities to secure them; however, some have become very important to the division's ability to accomplish certain aspects of its mission. Once successful in competing for these funds, most are available to be expended over multiple years so long-term projects can be supported. These funds, however, are difficult to use to assist in planning and supporting permanent staff positions and also add additional administrative and reporting responsibilities.

- Competitive State Wildlife Grants (cSWG)
- Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, Nontraditional Grants Program
- National Coastal Wetlands Conservation (NCWC) Program
- Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (GLFWRA)
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Avian Influenza (AI)
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP)
- USDA Wetlands Mitigation Program

STATE FUNDS

Game and Fish Protection Fund

This legislatively-established fund is principally derived from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses; the cost of licenses is set legislatively.

Game and Fish Protection Fund – Deer (DRIP)

This legislatively-established fund comes from \$1.50 of each deer license sold.

Game and Fish Protection Fund – Turkey

This legislatively established fund comes from a portion of each wild turkey license and application sold (\$9.50 resident, \$1 senior resident and \$3 application).

Game and Fish Protection Fund – Waterfowl

Historically known as duck stamp revenue, this legislatively established fund comes from the \$12 for each waterfowl license sold.

Nongame Fish and Wildlife Fund/Non-game Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

This legislatively-established fund comes through Michigan's Conserve Wildlife Habitat license plate, the sale of certain merchandise by the Wildlife Division, and donations.

General Fund-General Purpose (GF/GP)

General Fund-General Purpose revenues, collected in the main state operating fund, are not dedicated to a specific purpose by statute. The Wildlife Division's GF/GP is used primarily for wildlife disease monitoring and privately owned cervidae oversight.



Thank You!
Wildlife Division