



Visit Michigan's GEMS

Grouse Enhanced Management Sites

Photo credit: Ruffed Grouse Society



With the help of hunters and partners, the DNR has developed a series of intensively managed, accessible and walk-in ruffed grouse hunting areas across the northern Lower (NLP) and Upper Peninsulas (UP). The areas are called GEMS – Grouse Enhanced Management Sites.

GEMS goals:

- Provide unique hunting opportunities
- Promote hunter recruitment and retention
- Expand local economies
- Provide a destination point for the traveling wing-shooter
- Accelerate timber harvest opportunities



GEMS are:

- 500 to 12,000 acres in size
- Managed primarily for aspen with a shortened rotation age (40 years vs the standard 60 years)
- Most old logging roads will be gated in order to provide well managed grouse habitat with walk-in access for hunters.

The DNR is committed to developing 13 GEMS in the NLP and UP by 2016.

Adventure Opportunities

GEMS provide adventure opportunities for a variety of hunter types -- youth, adults new to the sport, seniors, and people with disabilities. GEMS are the perfect place to mentor youth hunters in secure areas. Seniors and those with mobility concerns will have a more leisurely opportunity with minimal terrain challenges. First time grouse hunters may be more comfortable with easily marked trails and maps. These sites are destination points for travelers who wish to move across the state from one GEMS location to the next. And, our wounded veterans may find these ideal areas to hunt given the easier mobility access and road grade for track chair use.

- Although these lands are managed for grouse, hunters will also have success in finding woodcock, snowshoe hare, and deer.
- Birders, in search of early successional species, will also enjoy walking these trails as well as wildlife viewers enjoying the overall scenery.



Check out **GEMS partners and local businesses offering great discounts to hunters at www.michigan.gov/hunting.**

GEMS Locations



Upper Peninsula

- 1 Mosinee**
Gogebic County,
Bessemer Township
- 2 Blue Bill Creek**
Gogebic County,
Marenisco Township
- 3 Hazel Swamp**
Houghton County,
North East Laird Township
- 4 Gold Mine**
Iron County,
Iron River Township
- 5 Ralph**
Dickinson County,
West Branch Township
- 6 South Marquette**
Marquette County,
Forsyth Township
- 7 Cedar River**
Menominee County,
Cedar River Township
- 8 Melstrand**
Alger County,
Munising Township
- 9 Garden Grade**
Delta County,
Garden Township
- 10 Halifax**
Luce County,
McMillan Township

- 11 Strickler**
Mackinac County,
Hudson Township
- 12 Drummond Island**
Chippewa County,
Drummond Township
- 13 LeeGrande Ranch**
Cheboygan County,
Koehler Township
- 14 Greasy Creek**
Montmorency County,
Loud Township
- 15 Little Betsie**
Benzie County,
Colfax Township
- 16 Lame Duck Foot Access Area**
Gladwin County,
Bourret Township

Lower Peninsula