

2016

MICHIGAN PUBLIC HUNTING ON PRIVATE LANDS



MAJOR CHANGES

- Find a current listing of enrolled HAP lands at mi.gov/hap. Listings can also be acquired by visiting a DNR Operations Service Center (locations on back of digest), or by calling 517-284-9453 to receive a copy by mail.



RAP (Report All Poaching): 800-292-7800

www.mi.gov/hap

M I C H I G A N

PUBLIC HUNTING ON PRIVATE LANDS

- CONTENTS -

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

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The Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) is a seven-member public body whose members are appointed by the governor and subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

The commission conducts monthly, public meetings in locations throughout Michigan. Citizens are encouraged to become actively involved in these public forums. For more information visit michigan.gov/nrc.

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	Hunting Access Program	3
	Anterless Deer Hunting	4
	Commercial Forest Lands	6
	Other Private Lands	7

NOTICE: This brochure is not a legal notice or a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a condensed digest issued for hunters' convenience. Copies of Wildlife Conservation Orders, which contain complete listings of regulations and legal descriptions, are available on our website: mi.gov/dnr/laws

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.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 created a funding mechanism for state wildlife agencies to restore and manage their wildlife resources. A federal excise tax on firearms and ammunition, bows and arrows is collected by the Internal Revenue Service and apportioned to states through a formula based on the number of licensed hunters and the size of each state.

Eligible states are those that have passed laws preventing the use of hunting license fees for any purpose other than managing the state's wildlife. The federal excise tax, along with hunter license fees, are used to acquire lands; protect, restore and manage wildlife habitats; manage wildlife populations; conduct wildlife research and surveys; provide hunter access; and develop, operate and maintain facilities and infrastructure necessary to manage wildlife resources. Additionally, a specific portion of the federal excise tax is dedicated for hunter education, and for developing and managing shooting ranges. Since its inception in 1937, Michigan's share of the Wildlife Restoration Funds has reached over \$275 million.

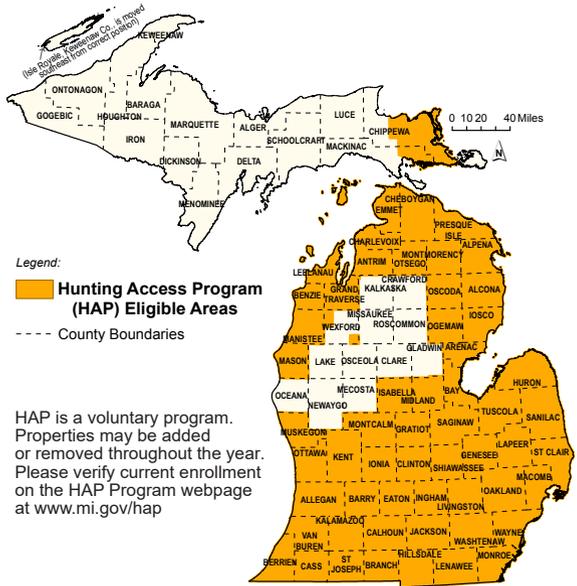


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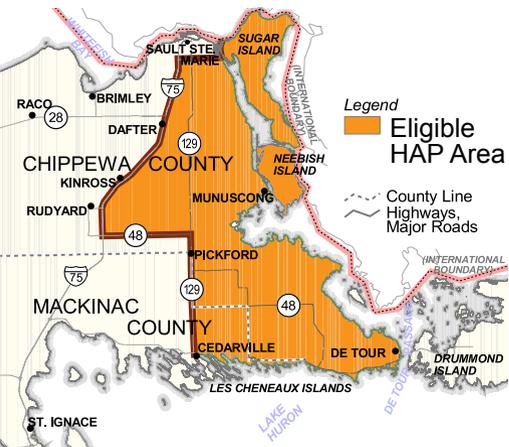
Visit us at mi.gov/dnr and click on the red envelope to sign up for e-mail updates!

Hunting Access Program (HAP)

HAP is a voluntary land leasing program. The DNR leases lands from private landowners to provide additional hunting areas for hunters living in, or near, high urban development and limited public land. Private landowners determine if all hunters, or youth and apprentice hunters only, may hunt on their property. They also determine if hunters may harvest deer only, turkey only, small game only, all legal species, or a combination of any of these options. Property owners specify the maximum number of hunters allowed on the land at any one time. Enrolled lands can be found throughout Michigan and a portion of the eastern Upper Peninsula (UP).



In an effort to increase public hunting opportunities in areas with limited access, the HAP program has been expanded to include most counties in the northern lower peninsula (NLP) and a portion of the eastern UP. This expansion will provide new opportunities for hunters to gain access to private lands, including sharp-tailed grouse in the eastern UP. Hunters can verify the type(s) of hunting allowed on each HAP land by visiting mi.gov/hap. Hunting on HAP properties in the eastern UP will



be open from Oct. 10 to 31 for properties that allow only sharp-tailed grouse hunting. Properties that also include small game hunting are open to hunting Sept. 15 through Nov. 10. **HAP lands in the eastern UP are not open for hunting deer or other big game species.**

HAP lands can only be used for hunting purposes by members of the public; no other activities are permissible.

Hunting HAP Lands

Hunters utilizing HAP properties are guests of the landowner. Respect for the landowner and landowner’s privacy is vital; use registration service types provided. Appropriate conduct is expected and helps ensure a good experience for both hunters and landowners. All rules and regulations enforced by the DNR apply while hunting on HAP lands.

Lands enrolled in HAP are available each day on a first-come, first-served basis, and hunters must register at each property headquarters to hunt for that day. To help hunters locate and scout HAP lands, aerial photographs of HAP properties are available on the DNR’s interactive hunting map application, mi.gov/mihunt, and on the HAP webpage at mi.gov/hap. 

Steps for hunting HAP lands:

- 1. Find a current listing of enrolled HAP lands at mi.gov/hap. Listings acquired by visiting a DNR Operations Service Center (locations on back of digest), or by calling 517-284-9453 to receive a copy by mail.** Listing information for each property includes:

Landowner Name	Last name, first name
Headquarters	Where hunters register to hunt
Township/Sections	Township and section
Habitat Type (including species commonly found)	WW = Wetlands (ducks, geese) FW = Forest (deer, squirrel, rabbit, turkey) FA = Grasslands and brush (pheasant, rabbit, deer) CC = Crop lands
Hunters Allowed	Maximum number of hunters allowed
Service Type	Self-service box or mandatory check-in
Hunt Type	YA = Youth and apprentice hunting only (up to two licensed adults may accompany each youth or apprentice hunter) A = All legal species SG = Small game hunting only D = Deer hunting only T = Turkey hunting only S = Sharp-tailed grouse only E = Elk only

- 2. If hunting antlerless deer on HAP lands, a private-land antlerless deer license for the appropriate Deer Management Unit (DMU) can be used. When purchasing a private-land antlerless deer license for HAP land use, the phone number 999-999-9999 should be used.**

3. Register at headquarters each time before hunting by providing name, complete mailing address, species hunted, and time spent hunting (starting and ending times). Individuals accompanying a hunter, but who themselves will not be hunting, should not register. Registration service types include:
 - Self-service box - Located near headquarters sign; contains folder with registration forms and property information. Please respect landowner privacy; do not contact.
 - Mandatory check-in – Register directly with the landowner.

HAP Rules and Reminders:

- Before hunting, verify hunting seasons, hunt type(s), and hunt dates for UP lands.
- Hunting is the ONLY activity allowed on HAP lands.
- Do not trespass onto adjacent properties.
- **Hunters must follow all individual landowner rules as described in the registration folder.**
- Every individual hunter (whether hunting or scouting) must register before his or her hunt. See property list for maximum number of hunters allowed.
- Up to two licensed adults may accompany each youth or apprentice hunter.
- Private-land hunting rules apply to HAP lands.
- Hunters are only allowed to hunt during seasons listed for each HAP land.
- Only species listed under “hunt types” may be harvested at each HAP land.
- Driving on HAP lands is prohibited without landowner permission.
- Do not block drives or lanes. Park in designated area when provided by landowner.
- Use of ORVs is prohibited without landowner permission.
- Hunting in or damaging standing crops is prohibited.
- Use of permanent blinds, tree stands, or nails/screws in trees is prohibited.
- Clean up after yourself; littering is prohibited.

Enrolling Property in HAP

Landowners who enroll their property receive payment for allowing public hunting on their lands. Eligible lands must be located within HAP-eligible areas as indicated on the maps on page 3.

Landowners are free from liability as stated in Public Act 451 Of 1994: “A cause of action shall not arise for injuries to persons hunting on lands leased under HAP unless the injuries were caused by the gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct of the owner, tenant, or lessee.”

Interested landowners with a minimum of 40 acres may obtain an application and details on the program and how to join by contacting the DNR HAP coordinator at DNR-HAP@michigan.gov.



Commercial Forest (CF) Lands

Over 2.2 million acres of privately owned forests enrolled in the CF program are accessible by foot to the public for fishing, hunting, and trapping. Use of motorized vehicles for fishing and hunting access is at the landowner's discretion. CF landowners are not required to identify the property as CF, and CF land 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 anything unattended (e.g. bait, blinds, etc.), and damaging or injuring any vegetation (e.g. cutting/nailing), require the landowner's permission. Commercial activity on CF lands is not allowed for any purpose other than forestry or oil and gas extraction. A public-land antlerless deer license is required for harvest of an antlerless deer on CF land. A private-land turkey license is required for harvest of a turkey on CF lands.

Legal land descriptions of lands listed in this program are available on the DNR website at mi.gov/commercialforest. CF parcels can also be found using Mi-HUNT at mi.gov/mihunt.

Use CF Lands with Respect

Although the general public has a right to fish and hunt 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 and hunt on the land does not extend to associated activities such as, but not limited to, the following:

- Littering.
- Camping.
- Cutting shooting lanes, or cutting or destroying brush, trees or other plants for any purpose.
- Using 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.
- Temporarily or permanently abandoning property, including tree stands or other hunting apparatus.
- Constructing blinds or constructing or placing other structures, except for gathering dead materials found on the ground.
- Target shooting or sighting-in firearms.
- Using 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 the commercial forest program or specific CF parcels, contact the nearest DNR office or DNR Forest Resources Division at 517-284-5900, DNR-Forestry@michigan.gov, or P.O. Box 30452, Lansing, MI 48909.

Tips for Asking Permission to Hunt Other Private Lands

- State law requires that hunters obtain verbal permission from the landowner. Only the landowner can give permission to hunt on his or her property.
- To be assured a place to hunt, hunters should obtain permission to hunt on several farms in case others are using the property or if the landowner is not home.
- Hunters should obtain permission in advance before planning a hunting trip. Don't wait until the last minute. Plan a visit early in the evening when the landowner, especially if a farmer, is likely to be home. Also, ask for permission if wanting to scout the area before the hunting season.
- Hunters should ask for permission by themselves or with one other person; do not take an entire hunting party up to the door. When approaching the landowner or family for permission, NEVER carry a gun, and keep any dogs in a vehicle.
- If hunters cannot visit the landowner in person, an appropriate and friendly letter should be written (don't just stick a note on the door). Hunters can request a date/time to talk in person, or make arrangements by mail or telephone. Do so at the landowner's preference.
- Hunters should be prepared to provide their name and contact information, along with the dates and times they'd like to hunt. A description of the land they wish to hunt should also be included (e.g., the back 40 acres of the woods and cropland). The landowner may limit party size, use of ORVs, or more.
- Ask the landowner about any hunting restrictions (e.g. no hunting in crop fields or other areas) on their property.
- Never shoot near farm buildings or where people or livestock are living. Observe all safety zone areas – 450 feet from possibly inhabited structures.
- Hunters must leave things the way they found them. For example, if a gate is open, hunters must leave it open after passing through or if a gate is closed, close it after passing through.
- Do not leave any trash. If litter is found already there, pick it up.
- When the hunt is over, thank the landowner for the hunting opportunity. This way the landowner knows the hunters have left the farm, and won't worry about individuals being lost or stuck on the property. A good show of appreciation is a great way to ensure being invited back.
- It's always wise and polite for hunters to offer the landowner a portion of their harvest off the land (e.g. piece of game or portion of venison) once the game is cleaned or processed. This goodwill gesture, along with the recommendations above, will aid in a positive relationship with the landowner. It may also provide hunting opportunities for others from this landowner, along with building a positive image of hunting.

Need information?

Contact a DNR office listed below or visit us online.

Customer Service Centers (CSC) are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Baraga CSC

427 US-41 North
Baraga, MI 49908
906-353-6651

Bay City CSC

3580 State Park Drive
Bay City, MI 48706
989-684-9141

Cadillac CSC

8015 Mackinaw Trail
Cadillac, MI 49601
231-775-9727

Crystal Falls Field Office

1420 W. US-2
Crystal Falls, MI 49920
906-875-6622

Detroit Metro CSC

1801 Atwater St.
Detroit, MI 48207
313-396-6890

Escanaba Field Office

6833 US-2 41 & M-35
Gladstone, MI 49837
906-786-2351

Gaylord CSC

1732 W. M-32
Gaylord, MI 49735
989-732-3541

Lansing CSC

4166 Legacy Parkway
Lansing, MI 48911
517-284-4720

Marquette CSC

1990 US-41 South
Marquette, MI 49855
906-228-6561

Naubinway Field Office

PO Box 287
W11569 US 2E.
Naubinway, MI 49762
906-477-6048

Newberry CSC

5100 M-123
Newberry, MI 49868
906-293-5131

Norway Field Office

520 W. US-Hwy 2
Norway, MI 49870
906-563-9247

Plainwell CSC

621 N. 10th St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
269-685-6851

Roscommon CSC

I-75 & M-18 South,
8717 N. Roscommon Rd.
Roscommon, MI 48653
989-275-5151

Sault Ste. Marie Field Office

PO Box 798
2001 Ashmun
Sault St. Marie, MI 49783
906-635-6161

Traverse City CSC

2122 South M-37
Traverse City, MI 49685
231-922-5280

Helpful URLs:

Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/michigandnr](https://www.facebook.com/michigandnr)

Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/mdnr_wildlife

Direct DNR website URLs:

Hunting and Trapping: mi.gov/hunting

Pure Michigan Hunt: mi.gov/puremichiganhunt

DNR Digests and Guides: mi.gov/dnrdigests

Michigan Waterfowl Legacy: mi.gov/mwl

Mi-HUNT: mi.gov/mihunt

Explore Michigan's Wetland Wonders: mi.gov/wetlandwonders

Invasive Species: mi.gov/invasivespecies

Shooting Ranges: mi.gov/shootingranges

Emerging Diseases: mi.gov/wildlifedisease

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Wildlife Division

525 W. Allegan Street

P.O. Box 30444

Lansing, MI 48933

(517) 284-WILD (9453)

Contact hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.