M I C H I G A N
PUBLIC HUNTING ON PRIVATE LANDS

RAP (Report All Poaching) - Call or Text - (800) 292-7800

mi.gov/hap
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.

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 mi.gov/nrc.

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/dnrlaws.

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This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

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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 where public land is limited. Beginning in Fall 2018, the Hunting Access Program will focus on addressing DNR goals, including emerging disease concerns and small game hunting. HAP properties are prioritized to include expanded hunting opportunities within the following: the five-county Core Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Area, the bovine tuberculosis area in the northeastern Lower Peninsula, pheasant hunting areas in the pilot Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative counties, and sharp-tailed grouse hunting areas in the eastern Upper Peninsula.

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, elk 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.

In an effort to increase public hunting opportunities in areas with limited access, HAP has been expanded to include portions of both the northern lower peninsula (NLP) and 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 - 31 for properties that allow only sharp-tailed grouse hunting. Properties that also include small game hunting are open to hunting Sept. 15 - 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 or recreation are permissible.
Hunting on 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 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. Listing information for each property includes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landowner Name</th>
<th>Last name, first name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Township/Sections</td>
<td>Township and section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters</td>
<td>Where hunters register to hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat Type (including species commonly found)</td>
<td>WW = Wetlands (ducks, geese) FW = Forest (deer, squirrel, rabbit, turkey) FA = Grasslands and brush (pheasant, rabbit, deer) CC = Crop lands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Type</td>
<td>Self-service box or mandatory check-in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunters Allowed</td>
<td>Maximum number of hunters allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunt Type</td>
<td>Youth and apprentice hunting only (up to two licensed adults may accompany each youth or apprentice hunter) All hunting, Deer hunting only, Turkey hunting only, &amp; Elk hunting only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For EUP Only
SG = Small game hunting only
S = Sharp-tailed grouse 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.
- Lands are closed during the summer.
- 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 hunting. 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.

**Got Land? GET PAID! 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. To hunt all species except antlerless deer on CF land, hunters must possess licenses which are valid for private land hunting. To hunt antlerless deer on CF land, hunters must possess a public-land antlerless deer license. 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. Any activities other than the acts of fishing, hunting, and trapping, require landowner permission. Leaving anything unattended, other than traps, also requires landowner permission. In addition, hunters may not build structures, or construct blinds other than with natural materials found onsite. The use of nails, bolts or tree steps is not allowed. The cutting of shooting lanes or destruction of brush, trees, or other vegetation is prohibited. Commercial activity on CF lands is not allowed for any purpose other than forestry or oil and gas extraction. Legal land descriptions of lands listed in this program are available on the DNR website at mi.gov/commercialforest, click “Commercial Forest Program Maps”. CF parcels can also be found using Mi-HUNT at mi.gov/mihunt. If you have questions about this program or specific CF parcels, contact the nearest DNR office or DNR, Forest Resources Division, at 517-284-5849, DNR-Forestry@michigan.gov, or P.O. Box 30452, Lansing, MI 48909.

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

- 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.
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 properties 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 unable to visit the landowner in person, a polite letter or phone call can help make hunting arrangements.

• 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 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 or closed, please return it to it’s original state after passing through.

• Do not leave any trash; if litter is found, please pick it up.

• When the hunt is over, thank the landowner for the hunting opportunity. This will alert the landowner that the hunters have left the farm, so they won’t worry about individuals being lost or stuck on the property. Showing 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 CSC
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
Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/mdnr_wildlife
Hunter Education: mi.gov/huntereducation

Direct DNR website URLs:
DNR Digests and Guides: mi.gov/dnrdigests
Emerging Diseases: mi.gov/emergingdiseases
Explore Michigan’s Wetland Wonders: mi.gov/wetlandwonders
Hunting and Trapping: mi.gov/hunting
Invasive Species: mi.gov/invasivespecies
Mi-HUNT: mi.gov/mihunt
Pure Michigan Hunt: mi.gov/puremichiganhunt
Shooting Ranges: mi.gov/shootingranges

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.