

# **Natural Resources Commission Meeting**

Policy Committee on  
Wildlife and Fisheries

# Proposed Orders

- For Information – Director
  - Public Act 288 of 2018; Forest Road Inventory in the Upper Peninsula and Southern Lower Peninsula (Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 7 of 2018)
  - Order to Regulate the Use of the Brandt Road Fen for the Poweshiek Skipperling at Holly State Recreation Area (Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 9 of 2018)

# Proposed Orders

- For Information – NRC
  - Statewide Trout, Salmon, Lake Whitefish, Lake Herring, and Smelt Regulations (Fisheries Order 200.19)
- For Action – NRC
  - Special Hook Size Fishing Regulations (FO 202.19)
  - Statewide Warmwater Regulations for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, Muskellunge, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Yellow Perch, Sunfishes, and White Bass (FO 215.19)
  - Gear Restrictions for Fishing (FO 218.19)

# **NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries**

- Fisheries Chief Update
  - Fishing Regulations
- Wildlife Chief Update
  - Order to Regulate the Use of the Brandt Road Fen for the Poweshiek Skipperling at Holly State Recreation Area

# **Department of Natural Resources**

**Fisheries Division**

**Chief's Update**

Todd Grischke, Assistant Chief

November 8, 2018

# Egg-Take Efforts at Weirs

- Little Manistee Weir
  - 1,300 Chinook harvested
  - 1,100 Coho passed
  - 411 steelhead passed (incl 23-lb fish)
  - 1.85 million Chinook eggs for MI/635,000 for IL
- Platte River Weirs
  - 16,370 Coho passed (lower)
  - 16,122 Coho harvested (lower)
  - 33 Chinook passed (lower)
  - 381 Chinook harvested (lower)
  - 4.9 million coho eggs collected (2.1 million for IL & IN)

# Egg-Take Efforts at Weirs

- Boardman River Weir
  - 962 Chinook harvested
  - 5,312 coho harvested
  - 1 pink salmon harvested
- Swan River Weirs
  - 2,978 Chinook harvested
  - 583,084 Chinook eggs collected
- Medusa Creek Weir
  - 1,260 Chinook harvested
  - 70 coho harvested

# Cisco Stocking

- Collaborative effort w/USFWS
- 1.1 million fall fingerlings, Saginaw Bay (Oct.)
- Historically large population
- Fish stocked w/USFWS *Baird* at two locations; nearshore, offshore in outer bay
- DNR, Tribes, OMNR long-term restoration

# Largemouth Bass Virus

- Known to kill adult largemouth bass on first exposure, 10-20%, then disappears
- Effects on smallmouth bass unknown, widespread mortalities haven't been seen
- Mortality events documented late this summer in Alcona & Iosco Cos., Cedar Lake confirmed with LMBv
- Anglers asked to report larger fish kills (>25 fish) using *Eyes in the Field*

# Arctic Grayling

- Annual Partnership Meeting Oct. 29
- Fundraising event/\$ for UV equipment
- On-going research at MSU
- 4 additional streams nominated for further habitat evaluation: Maple River, Upper Jordan, Boardman, Little Manistee (?)



**Thank you!**

# **2018 Fisheries Orders**

Natural Resources Commission  
November 8, 2018

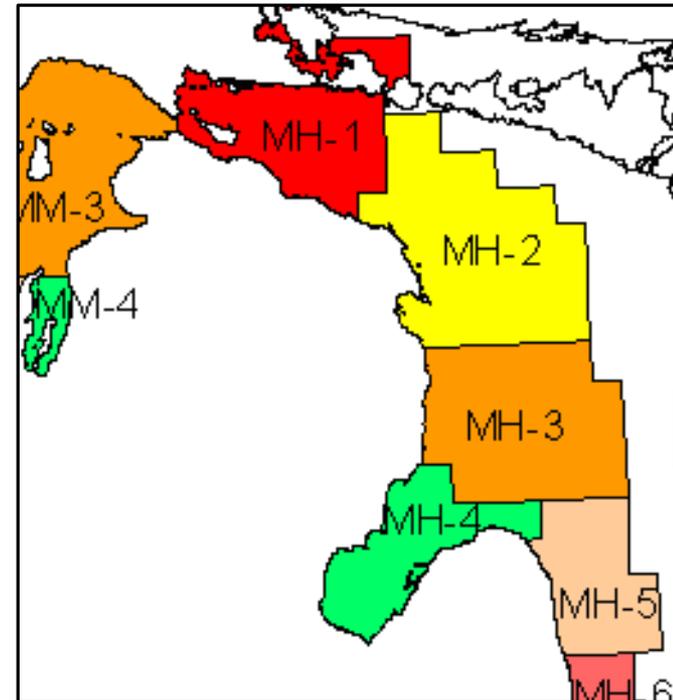
# **Fisheries Orders For Information Only**

- 200: Statewide Trout, Salmon, Whitefish, Lake Herring, and Smelt Regulations

# Fisheries Orders For Information Only

- 200:

Reduce lake trout and splake daily possession limit from (3) to (2) in MH-1 in northern Lake Huron

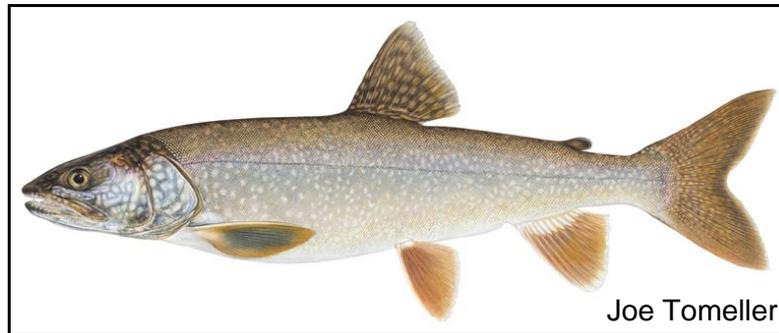


# Fisheries Orders

## For Information Only

### Lake Trout in northern Lake Huron

- Population is co-managed with Tribes and USFWS
- Harvest limit is determined using population model
- Recreational fishery exceeded harvest limit in 2016
- Per the 2000 Consent Decree the Department must apply a penalty to address exceedance of the harvest limit



# Fisheries Orders

## For Information Only

Lake Trout in northern Lake Huron

- Discussions w/ parties to address exceedance of harvest limit have occurred since 2017
  - Consent Decree science committees proposed merging management units and apply a combined harvest quota
  - Department proposed reducing harvest in both management units in northern L. Huron amongst other options
- Parties have not been able to achieve consensus

# Fisheries Orders

## For Information Only

Lake Trout in northern Lake Huron

- Per 2000 Consent Decree the Department must take actions to address exceedance of harvest limit
- Available management options to implement penalty
  - Reduce bag limits
  - Modify management units
- Recommendation: Reduce bag limit from 3 to 2 fish per day in MH-1

# Fisheries Orders For Information Only

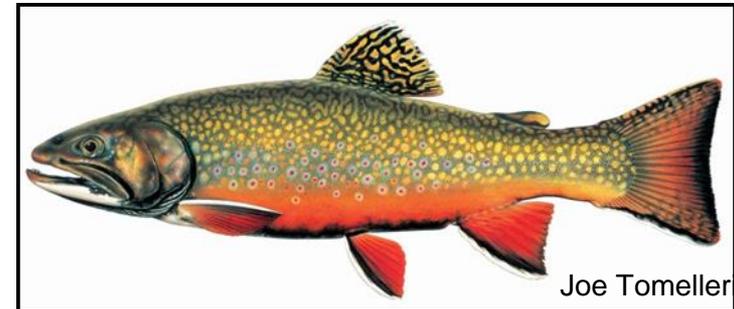
Lake Trout in northern Lake Huron

- Work towards consensus on how to manage conflicts with exceedance of harvest limit in the future
  - 2020 Consent Decree process will be initiated next year

# FO 200.18 (p. 30)

## Brook Trout in the UP

*The Department shall evaluate and determine whether up to 20% of the total mileage of the Type 1 waters in the Upper Peninsula may be recommended for this regulation. In 2018, the Department shall provide a report on this evaluation at a regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission.*



Joe Tomeller

# Previous Study Hypothesis

- A 10 brook trout daily bag limit is predicted to have minimal effect on populations
- Opportunities to harvest more fish is predicted to increase angler interest/participation/effort

# Research Conclusions

- Brook trout populations in the Upper Peninsula are highly variable
- Research results were conflicting
- One treatment stream experienced a decline
- One control stream experienced a decline, others increased
- Reduced angler effort when a stream went to 10
- Environmental variables impossible to control

# Summary through 2017

- Populations are highly variable
- UP populations are low
- Higher bag limit has the potential to reduce populations
- Higher bag limit may lead to less angler activity
- Most anglers prefer a 5 fish bag limit
- No biological benefits of a 10 fish bag limit
- Potential risks with a 10 fish limit but hard to quantify

# Criteria / Guidelines met by 7 additional proposed streams

Criterion/Guideline	Montreal	Presque Isle	W. Br. Sturgeon	Upper Dead	Days	N. Br. Stuttts	McAlpine Cr.
1st or 2nd Order stream						X	
1 stream/watershed/county							
Acceptable to most	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Not critical BKT habitat	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Not experimental stream	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Not stream previously ID'd	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Not where hi/moderate effort	X	X	X	X	X	X	X



# Summary Mileage / Criteria

Stream Name	County	Miles	Criteria met
Montreal	Gogebic	31	5/7
Presque Isle	Gogebic	155	5/7
W. Br. Sturgeon	Dickinson	81	5/7
Upper Dead	Marquette	23	5/7
Days	Schoolcraft/Alger	21	5/7
N. Br. Stutts	Dickinson	28	6/7
McAlpine Creek	Mackinac	52	5/7

# Recommendations

- 7 stream segments have been identified
- Limited information on 33 stream segments approved in 2017
- Conflicting research results through 2017
- Further evaluation of current 33 streams might be beneficial

# Fisheries Orders For Information Only

- 200:
  - Remove “scented material” provision
    - Type D and GRS waters (except flies only waters)



# Fisheries Orders For Information Only

- 200:
  - Remove Types on various waters
  - Change Types on various waters
  - Change boundaries on waters

# Fisheries Orders For Information Only

- 200:

## Brook Trout

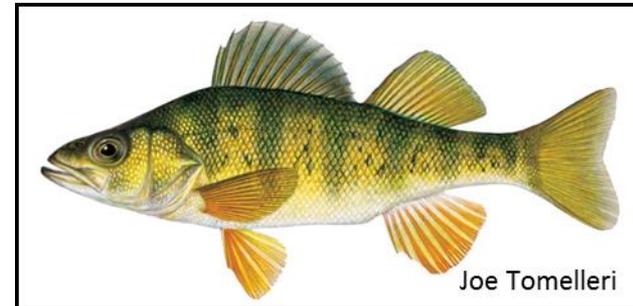


- Change min. size limit for non-classified streams from 8 to 7 inches

# Adding Clarity: Proposed Yellow Perch Regulations

## FO215 (For Action)

- In October, the Division presented the NRC with a recommended statewide Yellow Perch possession limit modification
  - Modify daily possession limit from 50 to 25
  - Supported by public
- Questions have been raised about including a size limit to the proposed regulation
  - Current science, angler survey, and Fisheries staff don't support



**Thank You**

Questions?

# **Wildlife Chief Update**

Russ Mason

# Wildlife Chief Update

- West Nile Virus in Grouse
- Kevin Swanson has accepted a new position at the Nature Conservancy

**Thank You**

# **Order to Regulate the Brandt Road Fen for the Poweshiek Skipperling at Holly State Recreation Area**

Daniel Kennedy  
Endangered Species Coordinator  
Wildlife Division  
November 8, 2018

# Poweshiek Skipperling

*(Oarisma poweshiek)*

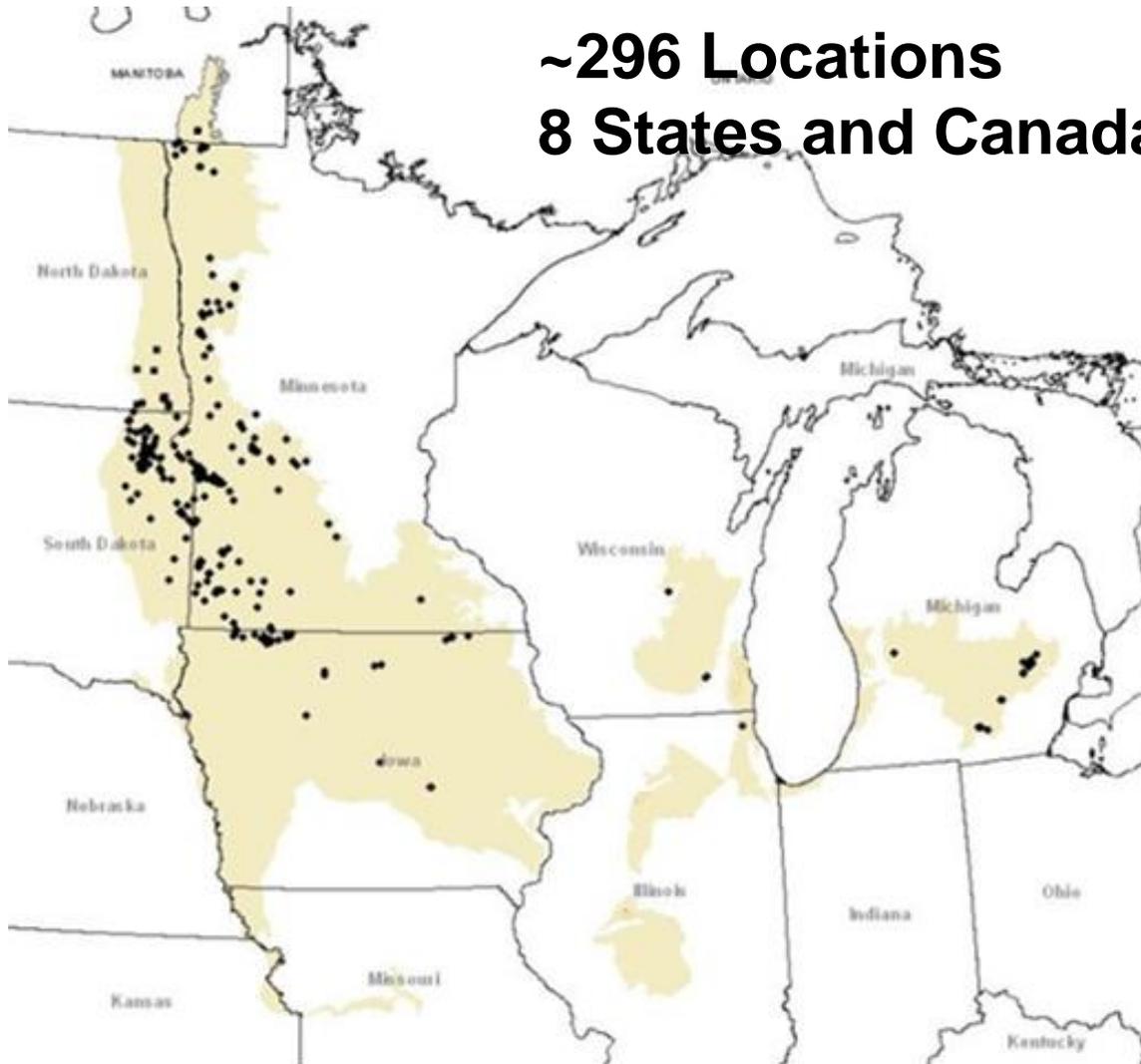
Status: Federally Endangered



Photograph by Wisconsin Butterflies.org

# Poweshiek Skipperling - Historical Range

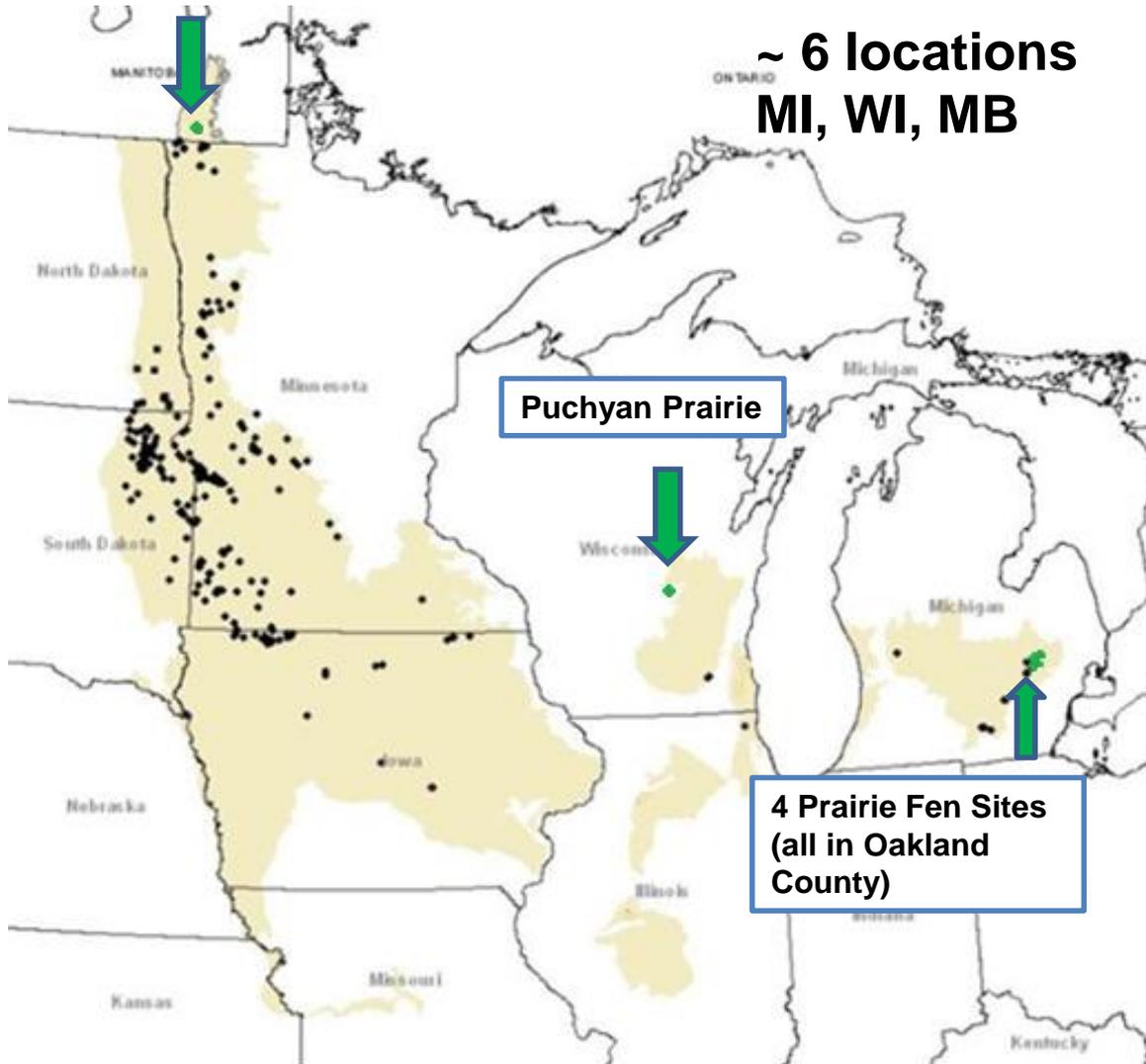
**~296 Locations  
8 States and Canada**



- Once common
- Rapid decline since 2003
- No longer found in 99% of historic sites

# Poweshiek Skipperling - Current Locations

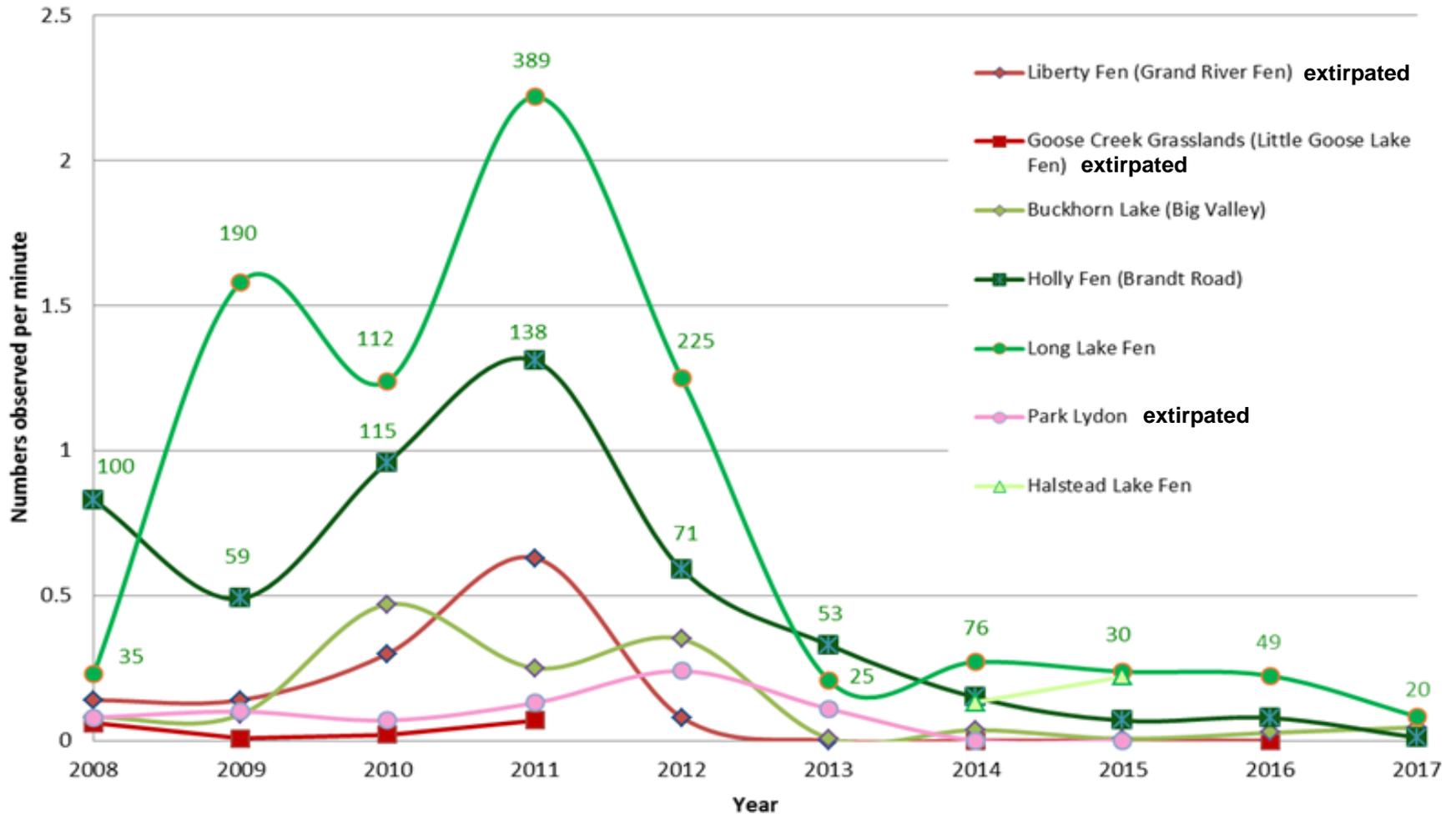
Tallgrass Prairie Preserve



- Six populations remain
- Four of those are in Michigan

# Poweshiek Skipperling– Michigan

## Poweshiek Skipperling Observations Michigan



Numbers over data points indicate the peak daily count

# Brandt Road Fen, Holly MI

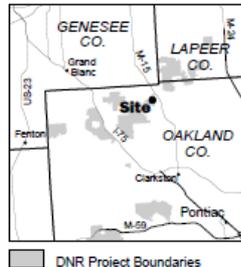
TEMPORARY CLOSURE TO BRANDT ROAD FEN  
Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 09 of 2018 Holly  
State Recreation Area  
Section 12, T05N, R08E  
Groveland Township, Oakland County



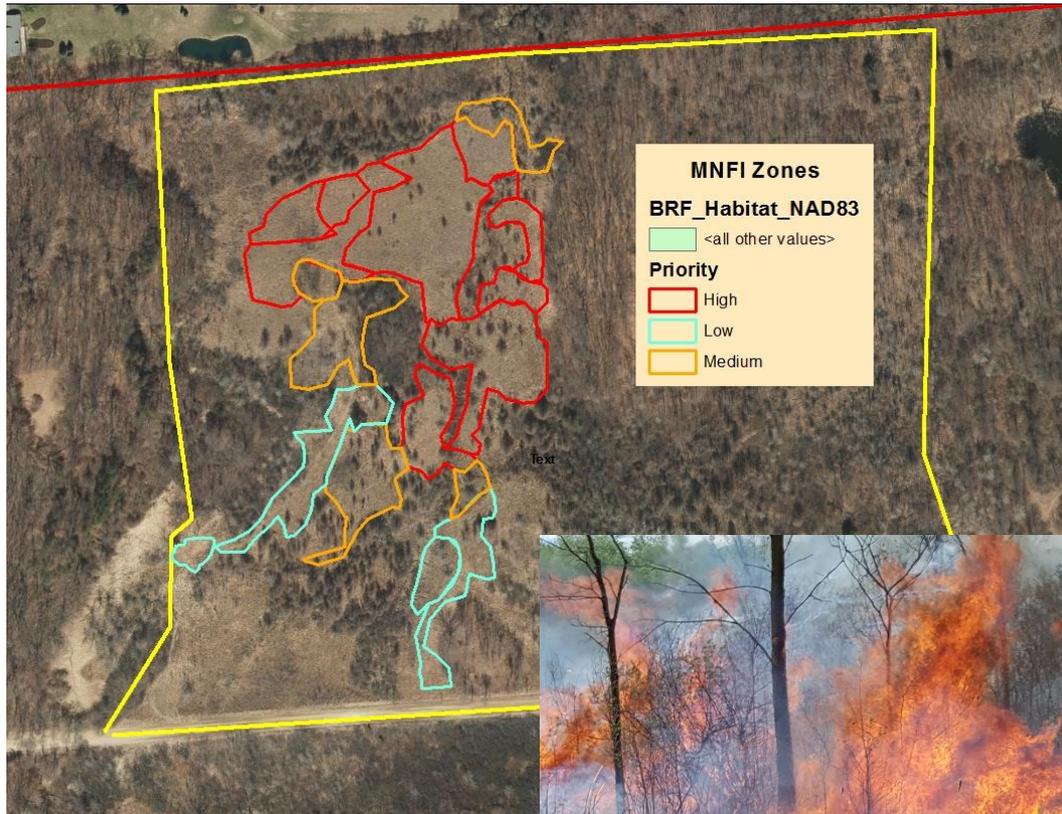
— Proposed boundary to restrict entry to  
Brandt Road Fen from June 1st. through September 1st.  
■ State land  
□ Private land

- Located at Holly Recreation Area, Oakland County
- Fen is about 27 acres
- Designated critical habitat for Poweshiek skipperling (2015)
- Poweshiek skipperling persist within 3 acres

0 Feet 1,000  
10/05/2018



# Brandt Road Management



- Management zones established to focus management effort
- Rx Fire – small units
- Hand cutting invasive species
- Hand herbicide treatment



# Close Access From June 1- Sept 1

Brandt road Fen, Holly MI



## Benefits to closure

- Reduce disturbance during critical flight periods
- Reduce damage/trampling of host plants
- Reduce harm to butterfly eggs/larvae
- Reduce unintentional harassment by photographer and nature enthusiasts trying to get a glimpse of this rare species

**Thank You**