

Summer Highlights



Southwest Region



2016
Wildlife Division

Fall Food Plots

GPS Goal 2

The MDNR Paris Field Office has expanded their managed food plots from **12 acres** (prior to 2015) to **49.5 acres** in 2016! Field staff have worked diligently at managing the plots to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to harvest or view game or non-game species. Several management tactics have been implemented to improve the quality of the food plot to benefit wildlife year round. Corn and wheat plots build fat reserves in deer and other wildlife species to sustain through the winter. Plots with fast growing clover and rye replenish vital nutrients that wildlife need to proliferate. The plots also attract an abundance of insects that are a primary food source for wild turkeys and other birds.



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Maple River Youth Field Day

GPS Goal 5

As part of the youth waterfowl hunting weekend, the DNR hosted the 2nd annual Youth Field Day at Maple River State Game Area. Over 50 youth hunters and adults attended the event and spent the day learning about waterfowl habitat, hunting ducks in Michigan, duck calling, cleaning and cooking waterfowl, firearm safety and more! Prizes were awarded to youth attendees, including a youth shotgun!

Waterfowl Banding

GPS Goal 1

The Southwest Region had an excellent summer of waterfowl banding! 1,336 Canada geese were banded along with 1,544 mallards, 412 wood ducks, 2 black ducks and 2 mallard—black duck hybrids! Great job to all of the Southwest Region staff, the duck banding team and volunteers! To learn more visit www.michigan.gov/waterfowl.





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Tornado Touchdown in Allegan SGA

GPS Goal 3 On Saturday August 20th, a tornado touched down in Allegan County, impacting the Allegan SGA. At least 50% of trees were damaged within the 300 acres of forest. Staff from DNR Wildlife, Forest Resources, and Law Enforcement Divisions collaborated with the National Weather Service, State Police, County Sheriff, County Road Commission, County Emergency Management, and volunteer organizations to assist community members and remove damage left behind by the storm. Recovery efforts are still ongoing, as local wood cutters and DNR staff are working to clear the debris from the SGA.



Prarie Restoration at Crane Pond

GPS Goal 2

The Crane Pond field office has been working to restore various types of prairie cover on the 150 acre prairie management unit. There are established areas of tall diverse prairie, short grass prairie, wildflower meadow, and tall winter cover. Prairie cover provides valuable habitat for pollinator species, grassland birds, and game species. In the last three years, efforts have expanded to large neighboring tracts of land where another 150 acres of oak savanna and 55 acres of prairie have been restored. These projects are great examples of landscape level management and are really making a difference in local wildlife populations. There is already an observable increase in grassland birds and game species!

Boots on the Ground

GPS Goal 5

In July, Rose Lake field staff partnered with Michigan United Conservation Clubs and Michigan State University volunteers during "Boots on the Ground" day to build habitat for rabbit and other wildlife species. At the Rose Lake SGA, black locust trees were cut to build several brush piles of "rabitat". To learn more about the DNR's wildlife and habitat improvement efforts, visit www.michigan.gov/wildlife.



To contact Southwest Region staff, call one of the **Customer Service Centers**

Plainwell (269) 685-6851 ▪ Lansing (517)284-4720

For a Wildlife Emergency or Law Violation call 800-292-7800

For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr