



2015

Wildlife Division Annual Report

Fiscal Year October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015 • mi.gov/dnr

04	GOAL 1: Manage for sustainable populations of wildlife species
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28	GOAL 10: Attract, develop, and retain a highly qualified workforce
29	GOAL 11: Effectively fund priorities identified in the strategic plan
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*This report is dedicated to
the memory of*




Mark Knee and Bill Rollo

*DNR Wildlife Division employees,
fathers, husbands, colleagues,
and friends*

Welcome!

As the public trust managers for Michigan’s wildlife, we are excited to highlight some of our work from fiscal year 2015 in our sixth consecutive annual report. The report is organized by strategic plan goals, and provides an overview of some (not all) of our division’s important work. There are metrics within the sections that indicate if we are meeting our strategic goals, and financial tables that outline the money spent per fund. Thank you for your support. We hope you enjoy!



Dear Reader,

The past year has been a busy one, especially with what seemed more challenges than opportunities. There were the discoveries of chronic wasting disease in free-ranging deer and highly pathogenic avian influenza in Canada geese, as well as the tragic loss of two Wildlife Division staff members. Mark Knee and Bill Rollo were incredible wildlife technicians, and they have left lasting impressions on Michigan’s natural resources and all of us.

In fiscal year 2015, the division continued to make progress toward achieving and surpassing the goals we set in our first strategic plan, and the promises we made when Michigan’s hunting and fishing license restructuring was passed.

Important are the essential, ever-broadening internal and external partners who are collaborating with us on a variety of initiatives. Together, we are achieving the following:

- Pheasant Restoration Initiative habitat goals are being met, only halfway through the initiative cycle.
- New Grouse Enhanced Management Sites (GEMS) are on the ground in both the Upper Peninsula and the northern Lower Peninsula.
- Turkey tracts are being planned for southern game areas.
- Waterfowl areas are expanding, as promised, and are receiving substantial infrastructural improvements – just look to Maple River and Shiawassee in the central Lower Peninsula.
- State game areas across the Lower Peninsula are being improved to provide more and better hunting, trapping and fishing access, and a Blue Ribbon State Game Area Advisory Group has been formed to assist in the effort.
- In the U.P., the DNR and the Natural Resources Commission are working with a broad coalition of groups to enhance deer winter range, especially on private lands.
- Across the state, the Wildlife Division is providing grants small and large to outside entities to conduct important habitat work.
- The division’s strategic plan (the GPS) has been updated.

With your help, this division will continue to make a difference. We are proud to be the public trust managers of Michigan’s wildlife.

Sincerely,

Bill Moritz, Director
Department of Natural Resources

Russ Mason, Chief
DNR Wildlife Division



1

WILDLIFE POPULATIONS

\$ 1,313,330

General Fund

\$ 5,313,541

Federal (annual)

\$ 131,587

Federal (competitive)

\$ 0

Revenue From Pittman-Robertson Lands

\$ 90,980

Other State Funds

\$ 1,789,984

Game & Fish

\$ 147,045

Deer Range Improvement Program

\$ 65,803

Turkey

\$ 193,617

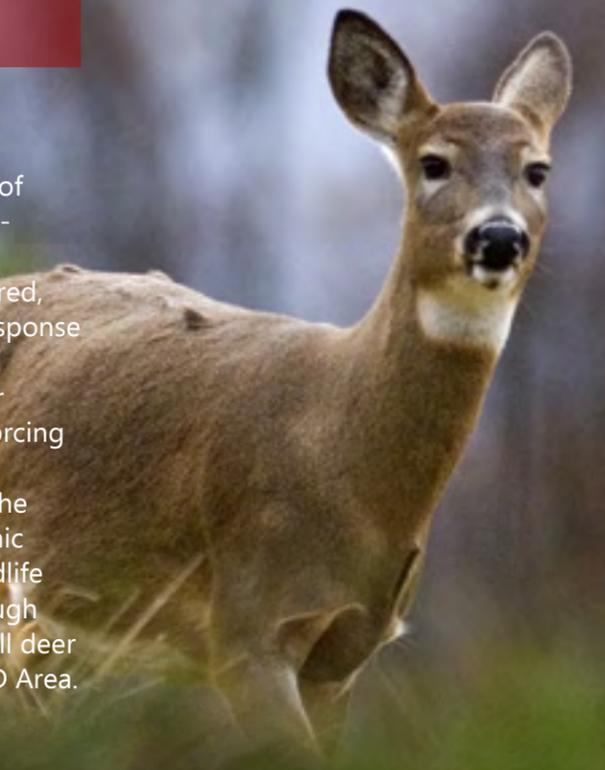
Nongame

\$ 9,045,887

Total Goal 1 Expenditures

Chronic Wasting Disease Found in Free-ranging Michigan Deer

In May 2015, through targeted surveillance, the DNR - and its partners at Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratory - confirmed the first chronic wasting disease (CWD) positive free-ranging white-tailed deer in Michigan. After that occurred, the DNR implemented the state's CWD Surveillance and Response Plan by establishing a nine-township Core CWD Area and three-county CWD Management Zone with mandatory deer check, restricting the movement of deer carcasses, and enforcing county level baiting and feeding bans. In order to meet the ambitious testing goals necessary to accurately determine the prevalence of CWD in the deer population and its geographic extent, culling of deer in Meridian Township by USDA's Wildlife Services (WS) began in early June 2015 and continued through late September. Additionally, division staff collected road-kill deer (which are more likely to be CWD-positive) in the Core CWD Area.



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

In early June 2015, the state's first case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), subtype H5N2, was confirmed in three Canada goose goslings from Macomb County. Additional sick or dead birds were collected and tested for HPAI as well. In total, 12 Canada geese tested positive for H5N2 HPAI, all from Macomb County. Due to findings of HPAI in wild and domestic birds across the country, a nationwide surveillance plan for wild birds was developed by USDA with input from state agencies. Under the surveillance plan, Michigan was requested to sample 760 apparently healthy wild birds statewide. Mortality surveillance also continued. In partnership with USDA-WS, 1,381 wild birds were tested for HPAI, with no additional positives.



WHAT THE WILDLIFE DIVISION DOES FOR GOAL 1: Conduct game species surveys • Operate deer check stations • Meet and give presentations at NRC meetings on proposed regulation changes • Conduct statewide hunt drawings • Implement revise the Wildlife Action Plan and identify priority actions • Evaluate effects of changing environments on wildlife species • species vulnerability assessments

regularly with stakeholders and partners to discuss game species issues • Collaborate with Mississippi Flyway Council on waterfowl regulations and non-game issues • Attend game species research projects • Protect endangered species • Collaborate with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on federal endangered species issues • Work with partners to Monitor and report on wildlife disease outbreaks and emerging diseases • Collaborate with federal and state partners on disease management strategies • Conduct wildlife



West Nile Virus

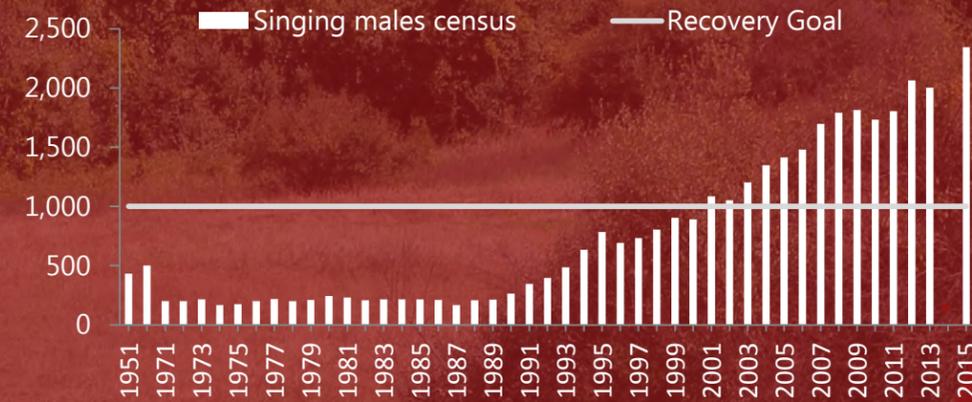
It was a record year for West Nile Virus (WNV), and the virus was identified in several new wildlife species in the state. One hundred forty-eight birds and mammals from 58 counties tested positive for the virus. The virus was identified for the first time in Michigan in two elk, a moose, and a big brown bat. Additionally, there were multiple positives of several species, including four white-tailed deer, five eastern fox squirrels, 17 wild turkeys and 10 bald eagles. While it is unlikely that WNV will have population-level impacts on affected species, finding the virus in wildlife is an important indicator of WNV activity within an area. Because WNV is zoonotic (can be transmitted to humans), knowledge of when and where the virus is present allows the division to inform public health officials, who can alert communities to take precautions against mosquito bites and implement mosquito control if they desire.

Canine Distemper

The Wildlife Division Laboratory received a higher than usual number of animals that were submitted and tested positive for canine distemper. These animals were observed displaying unusual behavior (e.g., seizures, lack of fear of humans, lethargy, and active during daylight hours). All canine distemper suspects are rabies-tested by USDA-WS prior to necropsy, and all were negative. In 2015, 92 animals were positive for canine distemper from 42 counties. Sixty-seven percent of the positive animals were raccoons, followed by 24 percent that were gray foxes. The lab also confirmed distemper in five coyotes, two striped skunks and one red fox, a species in which the lab generally does not see canine distemper. The finding of canine distemper in wildlife is an important reminder for pet owners to keep their pet's vaccinations up-to-date.

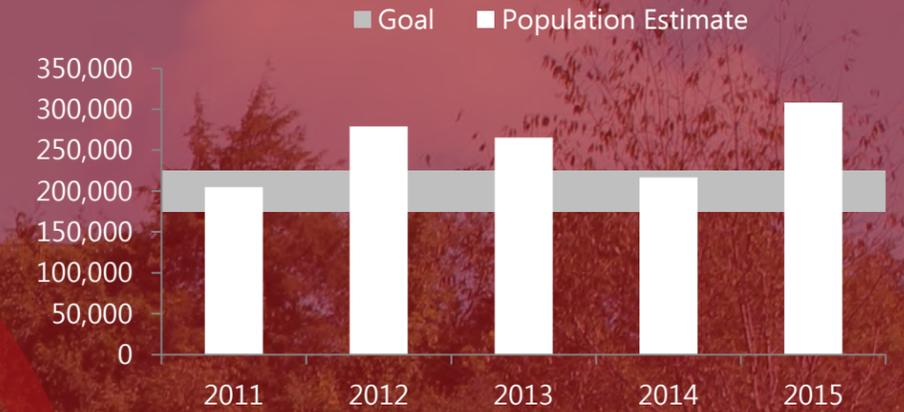
Populations

Kirtland's Warbler Singing Males

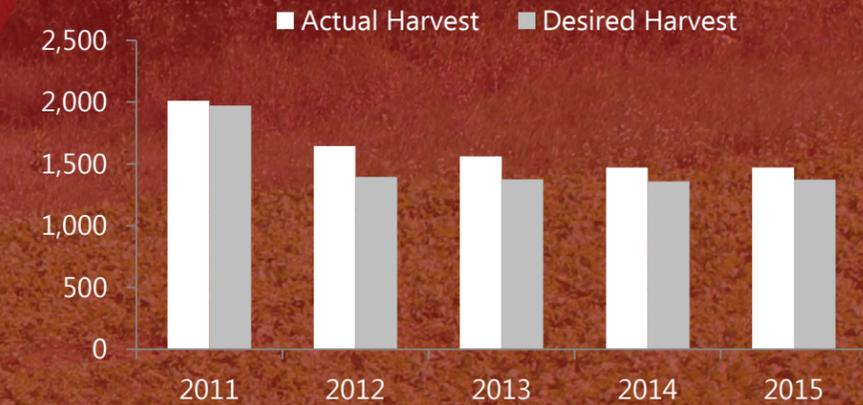


No census was conducted in 2014

Goose Population Estimate



Statewide Bear Harvest



Isle Royale National Park and Michigan DNR Band Peregrine Chicks on Passage Island

Annually, division staff attach leg bands on peregrine falcon chicks across the state to determine survival and chick dispersal. In June 2015, U.P. wildlife staff joined forces with Isle Royale National Park Natural Resources staff to band three peregrine falcon chicks on Passage Island in Isle Royale National Park. The peregrine chicks were in an eyrie (natural nest) on a rock cliff 210 feet above Lake Superior. This site is of particular interest because most of the peregrine chicks banded in Michigan are hatched in man-made nests. There were several challenges for the banding crew. First, they had to take a float plane out to the park, then take a boat ride with the banding crew to outer Passage Island, then rappel over the cliff to the nest (after a safe anchor and rigging system was in place). After staff rappelled down the cliff face to the nest, the chicks were loaded into a pet carrier and hoisted to the top, where staff members assessed their health and gender, and placed bands on their legs. They were estimated to be four weeks old and in excellent health -- two females and one male. The chicks were then lowered back down the cliff and released back into their nest. The process went smoothly and was a great collaborative effort between Isle Royale National Park and the division.



Updating Michigan's Wildlife Action Plan

Every state has a Wildlife Action Plan, which combined creates a national conservation strategy for safeguarding wildlife and their habitats for current and future generations. Each state's action plan is uniquely designed to serve the needs of that state. The plans provide a framework for proactive conservation and management of wildlife before they become imperiled, which is more straightforward, cost-efficient, and effective.

Over the past year, division staff worked with conservation partners across the state to update Michigan's Wildlife Action Plan; the first version was developed in 2005. The goal of the plan is to provide a common strategic framework to coordinate conservation in Michigan for wildlife and their habitats by working together voluntarily and cooperatively toward shared goals. Staff worked with over 40 conservation organizations to update the plan. The update represents shared priorities for species in greatest conservation need for the next 10 years, and outlines actions and needs for priority habitats and wildlife. For more information, visit mi.gov/dnrwildlifeactionplan.



Waterfowl Banding Team and Division Staff Hit Milestones

Reaching waterfowl banding quotas is a high priority for the division. Statewide, 3,184 Canada geese and 4,880 ducks were banded in 2015. Annually, the division exceeds the Canada goose banding quota of 2,450 birds, but for only the second time since duck banding quotas were instituted, the division exceeded its goals for both mallards (2,000) and wood ducks (1,100), banding 3,160 mallards and 1,676 wood ducks. In addition, all regional goals for mallards and wood ducks were met for the first time. The southern L.P. duck banding team contributed 1,744 total ducks to the effort, including 1,334 mallards and 392 wood ducks.

As part of the Implementation Plan for HPAI Surveillance in waterfowl in the United States, the duck banding team was tasked with collecting 110 oral and cloacal samples from dabbling ducks in the southeastern Lake Michigan watershed during summer banding activities. The team sampled a total of 266 ducks – 198 mallards and 68 wood ducks – for HPAI.



Michigan's Wolf Management Plan Updated

Last June, the division completed, with extensive public input, the 2015 update to the Michigan Wolf Management Plan. The process for the update included two opportunities for public review and comment and focused discussion with the Michigan Wolf Management Forum. Also produced, as part of the update process, was a Summary of Accomplishments from the 2008 version of the plan. The division expects the updated plan to successfully guide wolf management in Michigan for at least the next five years.

Critical Northern Long-eared Bat Discussions

The northern long-eared bat has suffered significant declines due to the disease white-nose syndrome (WNS). Due to this decline, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife proposed to list the northern long-eared bat as an endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act. The DNR engaged with 37 states and the federal government on a thoughtful, deliberative approach to the potential listing of the northern long-eared bat. Michigan and other states worked collaboratively to provide critical information as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service evaluated the status of northern long-eared bats. Listing the bat as a federally endangered species could have had significant negative implications for forestry and wildlife management across the Midwest while not addressing the root cause of the decline, WNS. The decision was made to list the bat as threatened with a 4(d) rule, which represents a biologically sound determination that will address the conservation needs of these bats in the specific areas of Michigan where they are found, while providing flexibility for those who live and work within the bats' range.



2

WILDLIFE HABITAT

GEMS

Grouse Enhanced Management Sites (GEMS) are intensively managed, walk-in access ruffed grouse hunting areas across the U.P. and northern L.P. regions. These areas are aimed at providing increased hunting opportunities while also accomplishing other department goals, such as promoting hunter recruitment, expanding local economies, and promoting sustainable timber harvest. In fiscal year 2015, another nine GEMS were established, bringing the grand total to 16 across the state.

\$ 0
General Fund

\$ 3,280,384
Federal (annual)

\$ 474,202
Federal (competitive)

\$ 0
Revenue From Pittman-Robertson Lands

\$ 265,155

Other State Funds

\$ 2,753,293

Game & Fish

\$ 1,412,160

Deer Range Improvement Program

\$ 500,143

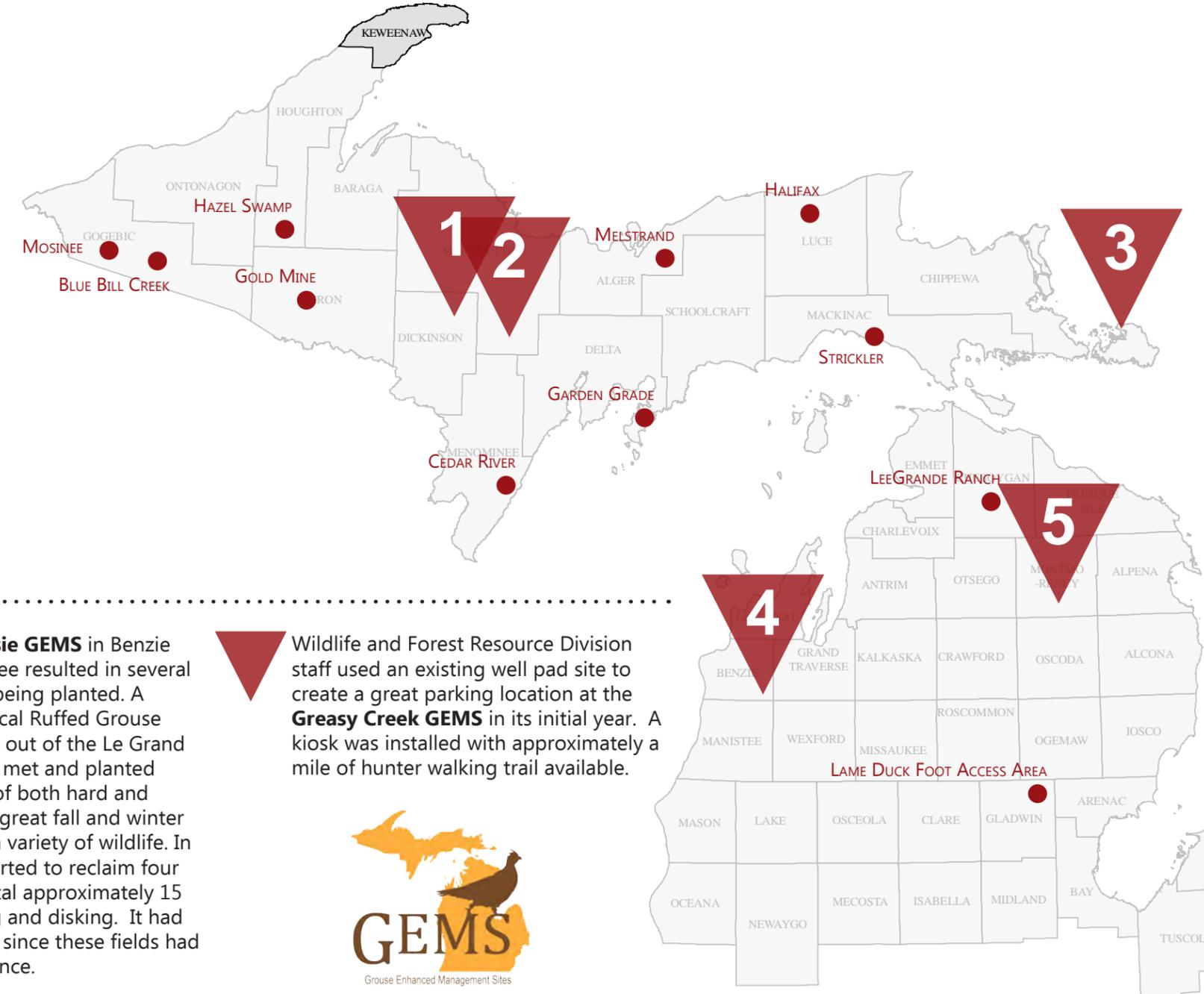
Turkey

\$ 112,360

Nongame

\$ 8,797,696

Total Goal 2 Expenditures



1 U.P. regional staff planted 20 acres, or approximately 5 miles, of hunter walking trails to clover for ruffed grouse and other wildlife forage at the **Ralph GEMS**. Staff also planted soft mast trees and shrubs, such as crabapple, dogwoods, and apples, and installed gates to allow walk-in access.

2 Two volunteer events on the **South Marquette County GEMS**, one with a local alternative high school and the other with a chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society, resulted in over 1000 shrubs and 101 trees planted.

3 In late spring, approximately 35 students from the Drummond Island Elementary School, plus teachers and volunteers from various organizations, planted trees and shrubs in the **Drummond Island GEMS**. The project was a great cooperative effort that resulted in habitat enhancement in the GEMS while being a hands-on experience for the students. The school, Drummond Island Sportsmen's Club, Ruffed Grouse Society, Michigan Sharp-tailed Grouse Association, Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac Conservation District, and DNR all were involved with the project.

4 At the **Little Betsie GEMS** in Benzie County, a work bee resulted in several hundred shrubs being planted. A small group of local Ruffed Grouse Society members out of the Le Grand Traverse Chapter met and planted several varieties of both hard and soft mast, giving great fall and winter food sources to a variety of wildlife. In addition, staff started to reclaim four openings that total approximately 15 acres, by mowing and disking. It had been many years since these fields had regular maintenance.

5 Wildlife and Forest Resource Division staff used an existing well pad site to create a great parking location at the **Greasy Creek GEMS** in its initial year. A kiosk was installed with approximately a mile of hunter walking trail available.



WHAT THE WILDLIFE DIVISION DOES FOR GOAL 2: Monitor the effectiveness of habitat management actions • Collaborate Forest Management Plans • Develop State Game Area Master Plans • Conduct inventories of habitat conditions • Develop assessments of important habitat cover types

with partners to conduct habitat treatments • Collaborate with Forest Resources Division on state forest habitat treatments • Assist with development of Regional State habitat demonstration areas to highlight management actions • Monitor and treat invasive species outbreaks • Conduct habitat research projects • Conduct vulnerability

Wildlife Habitat

U.P. Region Focuses on Deer Wintering Complexes

Upper Peninsula staff members have been conducting intensive habitat management in deer wintering complexes for many years. In 2015, openings maintenance and soft and hard mast tree plantings were conducted in the Petrel, Sturgeon Hole, and Big Springs deer wintering complexes (DWC), in Alger and Schoolcraft counties.

Opening maintenance was conducted in spring "break-out" areas in DWC, as these are some of the first places to green-up in the spring, providing more available forage for deer as soon as they leave thick conifer cover. An approximately 600-acre prescribed burn was conducted in the Sturgeon Hole DWC, a collaborative effort between Wildlife and Forest Resources divisions. Staff also planted about 80 acres of rye, clover, and buckwheat and mowed about 90 acres of existing planted openings within the Petrel and Sturgeon Hole DWC.

Beech bark disease (BBD) has resulted in the loss of beech nuts, an important food source for deer in the fall, prior to yarding in winter. To help offset this loss of hard mast, staff planted about 500 crabapple, 1,100 bur oak, and 7,000 red oak saplings in the Petrel and Big Springs DWC.

Last spring, over 1,000 red oak saplings were planted in a DWC in western Mackinac County, which is part of the Sault Ste. Marie Forest Unit. The planting occurred in a northern hardwood stand where diseased beech had been cut. Beech in the area are dying as a result of beech bark disease. The oak were planted to provide a future source of hard mast (acorns) for deer as well as other wildlife. Oak saplings were planted because they will be less susceptible to browsing than younger trees, and they should better compete with beech brush. A contract crew planted the trees while Forest Resources Division provided critical support for the project.



Northern L.P. Focuses Effort on Prescribed Burns to Produce Great Wildlife Habitat

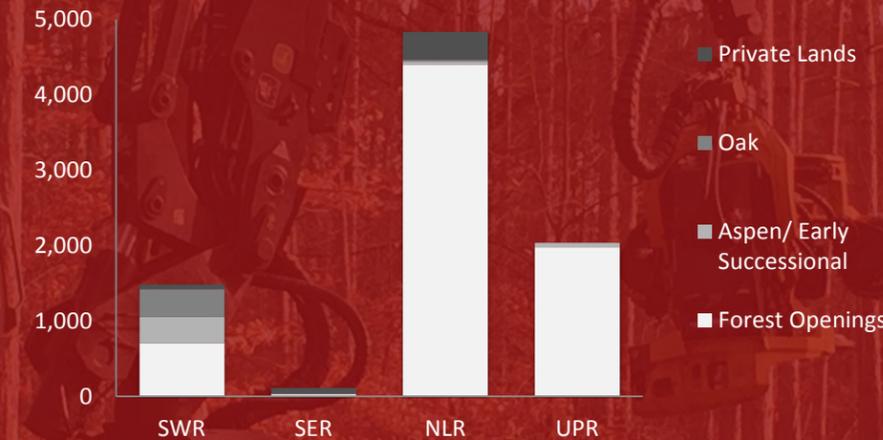
With the additional funding from the license restructuring, prescribed burns significantly increased in 2014 and 2015. In the Northern L.P. Region, over 3,400 acres were burned by both Wildlife and Forest Resources divisions. Elk require plenty of open land, and burning is the most effective method to create the desired habitat over large areas. Burns were performed across the region in the narrow windows of favorable wind and weather conditions. One burn in the Pigeon River is adjacent to a planted viewing area. In the Gaylord Unit, the second phase of a 700-acre plus barren complex was burned. Also, 390 acres of open grass and shrub land was burned to benefit native threatened species that depend on barrens land.



Timber Sales Benefit Wildlife on Haymarsh Game Area

Young, thick aspen trees are home for deer, grouse, rabbits, and other wildlife. In fiscal year 2015, Southwest Region staff members and loggers were busy planning and removing aspen and red pine from the Haymarsh State Game Area. Aspen trees must be harvested every 40 to 50 years or they die of old age, so it is necessary to harvest them in order to generate the next forest of aspen. Other plants such as raspberry also flourish just a few months after the harvest, making nesting sites for grouse and rabbit, hiding areas for fawns, and forage for adult deer. The red pine was also mature, and therefore removed to make room for the young oak and beech trees underneath. A new parking area was created as well. The revenue from timber sales in Mecosta County helps fund future wildlife habitat work on public lands. With nearly 2,000 acres of mature aspen on the Haymarsh State Game Area, additional timber sales will be conducted on the game area for many years to come.

Acres of Intensive Wildlife Habitat Management for Forests - 2015





Managing Grasslands at Verona State Game Area

The Southeast Region conducts several prescribed burns in cooperation with the Forest Resources Division each year to help achieve management goals to improve wildlife habitat. They completed 24 prescribed burns on 1,303 acres in fiscal year 2015. Of these, five burns (619 acres) occurred at Verona State Game Area.

These burns are part of a rotation designed to treat every grassland complex at Verona with prescribed fire over a four-year period. These burns help to control woody vegetation, reduce grassland maintenance needs over the long-term, and improve pheasant nesting and brood-rearing habitat across the area.

The four-year rotation consists of the following treatments:

- Year 1 - 2013: 532 acres burned
- Year 2 - 2014: 1008 acres burned
- Year 3 - 2015: 619 acres burned
- Year 4 - 2016: 714 acres to be burned

Several hunters reported an increased number of pheasants harvested at Verona in 2015. As grasslands are improved and enhanced, there should be an increase in pheasant, grassland songbird, deer, turkey, and quail populations for hunters and wildlife watchers alike.

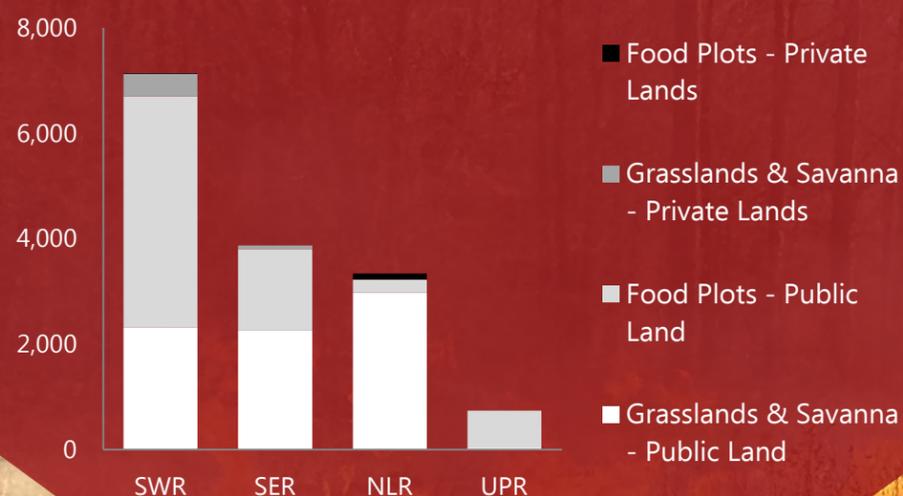


Harsens Island: Improving the East Marsh for Waterfowl and Hunters

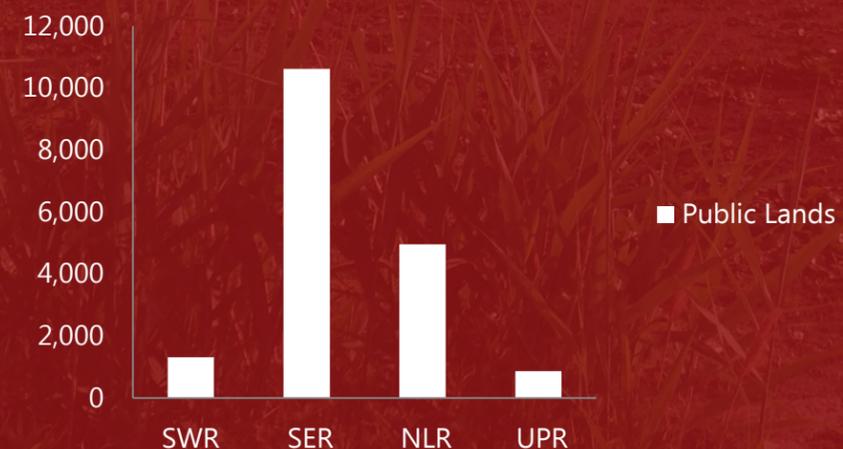
After seeing a multi-year trend of declining waterfowl use in the East Marsh of the Harsens Island Managed Waterfowl Area, Southeast Region staff have begun a two-year drawdown of the 1,200-acre unit. The drawdown (removing water from the marsh) mimics natural drought conditions and will help to restore native vegetation, increase annual plant abundance, and set back perennial plant growth. The drought conditions also will bolster invertebrate populations, break down organic sediment, increase wildlife use, and improve hunter access.

The summer of 2015 was the first of the drawdown, and the staff members at Harsens Island are already seeing a flush of native annual plants recolonizing the mudflats, including nut-sedge, smart weeds, and spike rush. In addition to promoting native plant diversity, staff members are attempting to reduce invasive plants. During the fall, staff aerially sprayed herbicide on invasive Phragmites.

Acres of Intensive Wildlife Habitat Management for Grasslands, Savannas & Food Plots - 2015



Acres of Intensive Wildlife Habitat Management for Wetlands - 2015



3

LAND USE

Hunting Land Purchased in Van Buren County

In May 2015, the 385-acre Cornish State Game Area in Van Buren County was purchased. The area includes a significant portion of Grass Lake as well as forested and grassland areas. When combined with Kinney Waterfowl Production Area, the grasslands total over 200 acres.

A master plan, which calls for improving waterfowl and pheasant habitat, and maintaining 200 acres of grasslands, has been written. Objectives include controlling invasive plants such as Phragmites; enhancing and expanding existing grasslands through prescribed fire; and mowing, tree clearing, planting, and establishing food plots.



Wildlife Staff Members Write Grants to Acquire Hunting Land

The division annually writes one or more grant applications to acquire land for wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. These are competitive grants, which require a written application and packet of supporting material justifying the purchase. Often these applications are submitted in cooperation with other conservation organizations or agencies. Since 1971, the division has been the recipient of 125 land acquisition grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), the Michigan Land Trust Fund, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. These grants have allowed for 614 separate purchases totaling 50,396 acres. The division was awarded its 126th acquisition grant, when the MNRTF Board announced its 2015 grant recipients. This \$2.47 million grant will allow the division to purchase a quarter-mile of Lake Michigan shoreline and associated uplands that will become part of Petobego State Game Area in Grand Traverse County.

WHAT THE WILDLIFE DIVISION DOES FOR GOAL 3: Provide information on wildlife surveys, reports, and assessments to department leaders, NRC, and legislators • Conduct legislative bill analyses • Collaborate on department's Land Management Plan • Develop division Land Acquisition Strategy • Collaborate with county and township land use planners • Evaluate impacts of development projects on wildlife resources • Resolve trespass issues • Survey wildlife-administered lands • Collaborate with partners to purchase important wildlife habitat

\$ 1,721

General Fund

\$ 745,054

Federal (annual)

\$ 0

Federal (competitive)

\$ 207,981

Revenue From Pittman-Robertson Lands

\$ 0

Other State Funds

\$ 122,594

Game & Fish

\$ 34,059

Deer Range Improvement Program

\$ 0

Turkey

\$ 0

Nongame

\$ 1,111,409

Total Goal 3 Expenditures

4

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

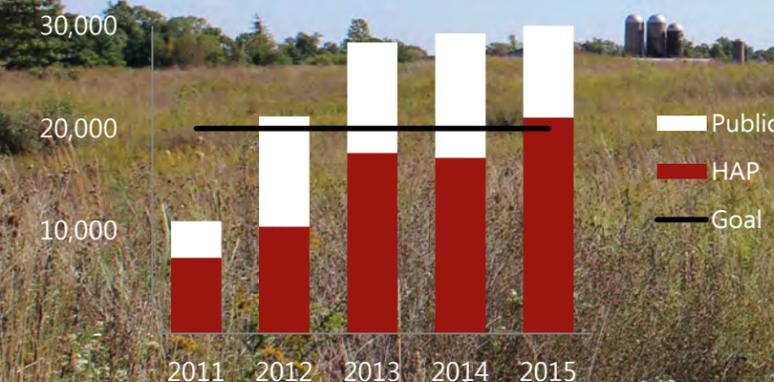
Sharp-tailed Grouse is a Focus of the East U.P. Hunting Access Program

Sharp-tailed grouse hunting has been a new opportunity for hunters in portions of eastern Chippewa and Mackinac counties since 2010. Most of the grassland habitat that supports sharp-tails within the hunt area is located on private lands. In 2014, the Hunting Access Program (HAP) was expanded to the sharp-tailed grouse hunting zone in the eastern U.P. to offer more land for hunting and better opportunities for hunters planning trips to the area. In fiscal year 2015, the Natural Resources Commission approved an expansion of the hunting zone, following consideration of survey results, and input from the Sharp-tailed Grouse Advisory Committee.



The expanded zone and expansion of the HAP program made more land available for sharp-tail hunting. Over 4,000 acres were enrolled in the HAP program for the 2015 hunting season. Implementation of the HAP program has been a cooperative effort between the DNR and the Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac Conservation districts.

Additional Cummulative Acres of Land for Public Hunting and Trapping



WHAT THE WILDLIFE DIVISION DOES FOR GOAL 4: Develop educational materials to explain hunting and trapping programs • Emphasize the economic impacts of hunting, trapping, and wildlife viewing • Enroll landowners in the Hunting Access Program • Conduct wildlife area tours and demonstrations • Conduct opinion surveys of hunters, trappers, and wildlife viewers to help improve programs • Attend outdoor shows to provide hunting, trapping, and wildlife viewing information • Assist with development of MI-HUNT • Promote wildlife areas to birding communities • Promote small game hunting opportunities on southern Michigan State Game Areas • Modify regulations language for clarity • Identify additional State Game Area sites for wildlife viewing opportunities

General Fund

\$ 259,941

Federal (annual)

\$ 289,660

Federal (competitive)

\$ 64,474

Revenue From Pittman-Robertson Lands

\$ 59,365

Other State Funds

\$ 244,908

Game & Fish

\$ 0

Deer Range Improvement Program

\$ 5,531

Turkey

\$ 1,403

Nongame

\$ 925,282

Total Goal 4 Expenditures

Michigan Pheasant Restoration Youth Jamboree

Each September since 2013, the Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative coalition has hosted a Youth Jamboree at Lake Hudson State Recreation Area in Lenawee County. Over 1,000 visitors attend each year. In 2015, visitors came from four states to participate in the event. Youth and their families are treated to a chukar hunt, archery demonstrations, live birds of prey, pellet gun shooting, fishing, boating, and more at this outdoor extravaganza. The event is held to increase recruitment of young hunters and especially young pheasant hunters.

Michigan Hunting Tradition Continued in 2015

Deer & Deer Combo Licenses	994,319
Small Game (Base) Licenses	811,008
Antlerless Deer Licenses	347,903
Spring Turkey Licenses	87,188
Waterfowl Licenses	57,821
Fur Harvester Licenses	62,924
Fall Turkey Licenses	30,768
Bear Hunting Licenses	5,464
Elk Hunting Licenses	101

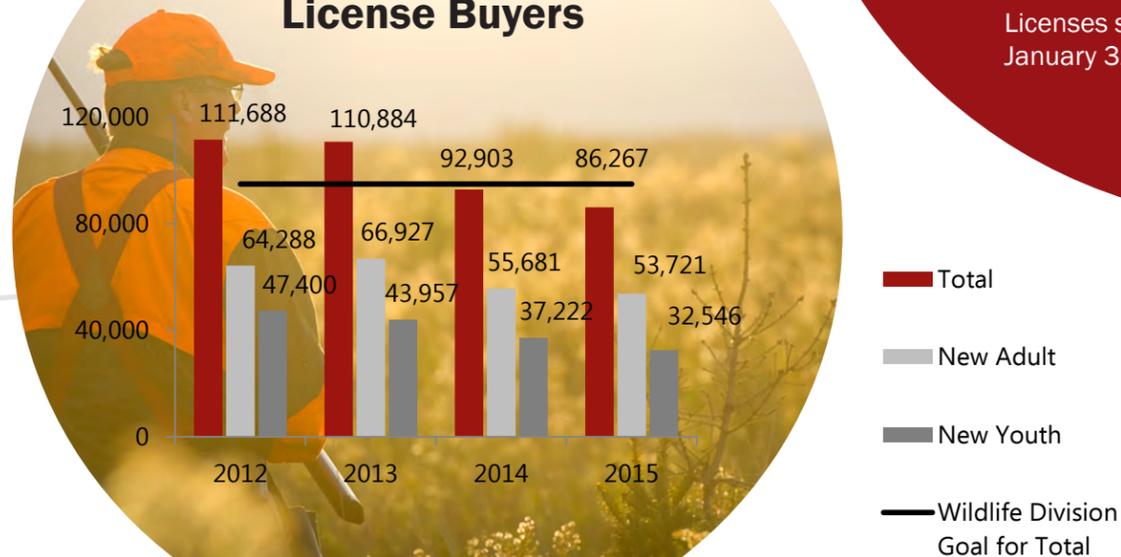
Licenses sold between March 1, 2015 and January 31, 2016

Inaugural Season for Sharonville SGA's Pierce Road Unit

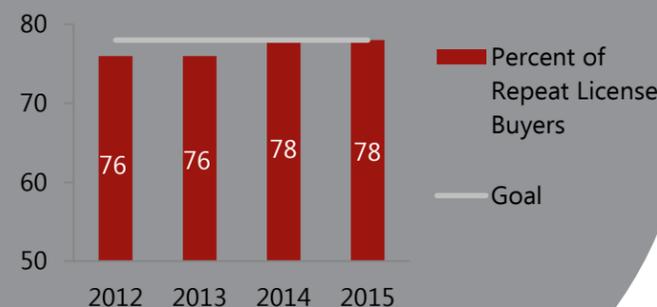
As part of Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors initiative, the division designated a 600-acre unit of the Sharonville State Game Area as a restricted-access hunt area to provide special hunt opportunities. This unit, now referred to as the Pierce Road Unit (PRU), consists of the state game area lands adjacent to Pierce Road in Jackson County. The PRU remained open to the public for hunting and recreational activities, except during posted dedicated hunting days. The restricted days gave hunters with disabilities the opportunity to hunt deer on state land with reduced competition from other hunters. The PRU land-use rules will sunset in three years, and the program is being evaluated during that time. It was the first year for the special hunt in 2015. The area was accessible by permit only during specific deer hunting periods. Sixty-four permits were available, 37 applicants received permits to hunt, and 26 permittees participated in hunts. There were two deer harvested on the PRU, one during the Liberty Hunt and one during the regular firearm deer season.



Number of New License Buyers



Repeat Hunters and Trappers License Buyers in Michigan



Passing Along the Waterfowl Hunting Heritage

Each September, many State Game Areas host youth waterfowl hunt events. Pointe Mouillee State Game Area hosts an annual youth hunt with the help of the Gibraltar Duck Hunter's Association and the Southwestern Lake Erie Chapter of Waterfowl U.S.A. In 2015, the 11th year of the event, 46 youth turned-out to enjoy the day. The morning was spent in the marshes of Pointe Mouillee and surrounding wetlands, with several ducks and geese harvested by the youngsters. After the hunt, each youth was treated to lunch, guest speaker presentations, and a wood duck banding demonstration. Youth left with a very handsome goody bag of duck and goose calls, duck decoys, and raffle prizes.

5

PUBLIC OUTREACH

\$ 45,574

General Fund

\$ 859,209

Federal (annual)

\$ 0

Federal (competitive)

\$ 0

Revenue From Pittman-Robertson Lands

\$ 39,445

Other State Funds

\$ 758,231

Game & Fish

\$ 47,462

Deer Range Improvement Program

\$ 40,079

Turkey

\$ 12,955

Nongame

\$ 1,802,955

Total Goal 5 Expenditures

Communicating About Chronic Wasting Disease

After CWD was located in a free-ranging deer in Michigan, a comprehensive communications strategy was developed in June 2015. The plan outlined the various messages, audiences, and tools that would be needed to effectively and efficiently discuss this important topic. The products listed on the right are some of the items that were developed and distributed. Much of this information can be found at mi.gov/cwd.



Informational Videos



Deer Processing Video



Informational Flyers for:

- ▶ Management Area
- ▶ Taxidermists
- ▶ Meat Processors
- ▶ Facts for Anyone



Press Releases, Media Contacts, FAQs



Bumper Stickers



Town Hall Meetings, Weekly Testing Updates



Billboards



Facebook, Twitter & Website Updates



Maverick Joins the MWL Outreach Team!

Maverick the Mallard, the Michigan Waterfowl Legacy (MWL) mascot, made his debut in fiscal year 2015. Maverick got his feet wet splashing around at five different events helping to promote the MWL and the importance of wetlands and waterfowl. Maverick also was spotted dabbling around some of our managed waterfowl hunt areas - outside of the open hunting season, of course! Maverick even helped our duck banding team catch some of his flockmates so they could get a band, just like him. Be sure to follow Maverick's adventures by liking the MWL Facebook page at www.facebook.com/michiganwaterfowllegacy.



VIDEO

60-Second Snakes Series a Sensation!

Each spring, DNR offices around the state receive phone calls from concerned or frantic residents who have found a snake and want to know if it is dangerous. Additionally, the Michigan's Snakes page is one of the most visited on the DNR's website. To help educate and inform Michigan residents on the different species of snakes they may encounter, the division created a "60-Second Snakes" video series. The first species featured was the massasauga rattlesnake, and in fiscal year 2015 the video had over 66,500 views! The response to these videos has been overwhelmingly positive.

60-Second Snake videos and their total number of views on YouTube during fiscal year 2015:

- Massasauga rattlesnake: 66,696
- Hognose snake: 30,379
- Milk snake: 19,198
- Black rat snake: 18,168
- Northern water snake: 17,648
- Blue racer: 10,401

The northern water snake, blue racer and black rat snake videos also were uploaded to the DNR's Facebook page and have over 10,000 views collectively.

WHAT THE WILDLIFE DIVISION DOES FOR GOAL 5: Develop educational materials to explain wildlife programs • Attend the public • Present educational wildlife programs • Provide talking points to all staff on important wildlife issues

outdoor shows to provide wildlife program information • Engage stakeholders and encourage participation in wildlife programs • Develop new tools to share information with

6

FOSTERING RELATIONSHIPS

\$ 0

General Fund

\$ 288,889

Federal (annual)

\$ 0

Federal (competitive)

\$ 0

Revenue From Pittman-Robertson Lands

\$ 0

Other State Funds

\$ 269,773

Game & Fish

\$ 0

Deer Range Improvement Program

\$ 1,673

Turkey

\$ 0

Nongame

\$ 560,336

Total Goal 6 Expenditures

Muskegon County Wastewater Treatment Center is a Great Place to Hunt Geese!

One of the two managed waterfowl hunting areas in the Southwest Region is the Muskegon County Wastewater System Goose Management Unit. Besides being a destination place for birders, the area has provided managed waterfowl hunting opportunities for thousands of Michigan hunters since 1978. Unlike other managed waterfowl hunts, the hunt here takes place entirely on county-owned properties. Thirty-five hundred acres of Muskegon County agricultural land associated with the wastewater lagoons are a major attraction for migrating ducks and geese. The hunt has evolved as a cooperative venture between the landowners (Muskegon County) and the division. Since the late 70s, Wildlife and Law Enforcement division staff members have administered and overseen the drawings, and enforced the managed hunting rules at the center.

In recent years, the managed hunt had been experiencing declines in both hunter participation and success. Some of the factors were related to a changing farm economy that reduced grain field production in favor of more hay and silage operations. The closure of the paper mill in Muskegon also reduced the volume of water being treated and discharged on the wastewater fields. The collective effect was a loss in attractive habitat for migrating waterfowl and a significant reduction in hunter numbers, to the point that there was serious doubt about the future of the hunt. However, things finally look like they are improving. A combination of new farming practices at the area and a creative Memorandum of Agreement between the county and the division has led to some changes. For the first time, this past season the county staff members were able and willing to leave standing corn strips in most of the wastewater corn fields. The combination of corn and corn stubble strips for food and cover improved both hunting success and hunter participation. Despite hunting only two days per week, hunter numbers (725) and goose harvest (206) more than doubled, and duck harvest (291) tripled. Although only one year's worth of data has been compiled, the future of the managed hunt looks much more encouraging.



Wildlife Staff and Local Partners Help Private Landowners Build Wildlife Habitat

Working with local partners such as the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, division staff members were able to identify and prioritize opportunities for habitat management on private lands adjacent to state ownerships in Cass County. The Mittler family property was identified as one such site, and in 2015 a cooperative project between the Land Conservancy, the Mittler Family Trust and the division began efforts to create and restore oak savanna and prairie habitat on the 146 acre property. The project was funded partially through a Competitive State Wildlife Grant with 50% match from the Mittler Foundation. As of the fall of 2015, over 90 acres have been cleared, sprayed, and planted to cover crops in preparation for further restoration and seeding work. Future plans for the property include planting a diverse savanna and grassland seed mix, grouped bur/white oak sapling plantings, wetland enhancement, and conducting forest stand improvement in wooded areas. The work greatly complements habitat management efforts on state lands, which surrounds the property on three sides, and contributes to increased efforts in the region to manage for rare species and systems, control invasive species, and develop upland game bird habitat.

Private Company and Wildlife Staff Both Benefit from Work

Wolverine Power Cooperative has a transmission line that runs through an area of the Maple River State Game Area in Clinton County. The company contacted the division with a request to gain/create better access to a switch located nearly ¼ mile off the road on state land. Periodically and sometimes in emergency situations, Wolverine's linemen need to gain access to the switch located on state property. If it is wet or there is snow, that can be difficult. The initial request for the road was to use an existing gate in a division parking lot and install the road bisecting the parcel of state land ending at the switch. Having some concerns with a gravel roadway bisecting a swath of public land, the two groups were able to come up with an agreement -- Wolverine would install the road in its existing easement underneath the transmission line. Then the company would have its own gate/lock, and the road also would help with long-term ground maintenance for Wolverine under its transmission line. Wolverine also agreed to build and place an easily accessible hunting blind adjacent to the new road to provide hunters with limited mobility a place to hunt. The spot chosen for the blind is adjacent to an open field on one side and 35 to 40 yards away from a drainage feature, which naturally funnels deer past the site. This site is 4 to 5 miles from three other handicap-accessible hunting blinds that Wildlife staff already maintains, so the situation turned out to be a win-win for both parties.

WHAT THE WILDLIFE DIVISION DOES FOR GOAL 6: Collaborate with MUCC and other partners on new volunteer programs • Provide additional opportunities for stakeholder input • Support the role of citizen advisory groups • Expand web-based communications with partner assistance • Meet regularly with federal and state partners • Meet regularly with stakeholder and partner groups

Drummond Island Comprehensive Resource Management Plan is Completed

The DNR has been involved in a cooperative effort with stakeholders in a management planning process for Drummond Island. The multi-year effort culminated with the recent (November 2015) approval of the Drummond Island Comprehensive Resource Management Plan, which provides management direction for state-managed resources on the island. The planning process included a public issue scoping meeting, recommendations by the Drummond Island Writing Team—a diverse group of stakeholders representing various interests on the island—to the DNR, and development and public review of the management plan. Division staff members have been involved throughout the process.



Developing a Plan with Partners for Northern Lake Michigan Islands

Division staff members have been working with residents and other interested parties, local and tribal governments, other state agencies, and non-governmental organizations to improve the way the division manages state lands on the northern Lake Michigan Islands. Islands with state land include Beaver, Garden, High, Hog, Whiskey, North Fox, and South Fox. The division is working under a collaborative governance model to identify, prioritize, and implement important projects on these unique public lands. Projects include invasive species control, improvement of hunter walking trails, remote airstrip maintenance, and development of a non-motorized coastal boating trail.

7

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION



Internal Communications Plan Developed

In 2015, the division unveiled its new Internal Communications Plan. The plan was developed to build and strengthen positive relationships among division staff members (peers, supervisors, and chief) through the use of various communication techniques. The division is working to create an environment that expects staff to be working towards the same goals, and by the same rules. Strong internal communications is the key!

General Fund	\$ 29,369
Federal (annual)	\$ 0
Federal (competitive)	\$ 0
Revenue From Pittman-Robertson Lands	\$ 0
Other State Funds	\$ 1,075,312
Game & Fish	\$ 0
Deer Range Improvement Program	\$ 0
Turkey	\$ 0
Nongame	\$ 0

\$ 1,104,681

Total Goal 7 Expenditures



WHAT THE WILDLIFE DIVISION DOES FOR GOAL 7: Hold annual all-hands meeting for the division • Provide communications training and technical workshops to staff • Conduct regular employee staff meetings • Schedule time for more face-to-face meetings

8

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES

\$ 8,494

General Fund

\$ 94,862

Federal (annual)

\$ 0

Federal (competitive)

\$ 0

Revenue From Pittman-Robertson Lands

\$ 1,696

Other State Funds

\$ 143,449

Game & Fish

\$ 8,494

Deer Range Improvement Program

\$ 3,394

Turkey

\$ 1,777

Nongame

\$ 262,166

Total Goal 8 Expenditures

The following permits were active in 2015:

- 333 Permits to Hold Wildlife in Captivity
- 574 Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Control
- 255 Game Bird Hunting Preserves
- 362 Scientific Collector's
- 123 Falconry
- 136 Wildlife Rehabilitation
- 198 Special Dog Training Areas
- 245 Fox Hound Training
- 154 Project Control Permits
- 104 Field Trials on State Land
- 32 Private Land Field Trials
- 54 Out-of-State Dog Bear Permits
- 7 Goose Contractor
- 168 Commercial Hunting Guide Permits
- 2745 TOTAL

mi.gov/wildlifepermits

WHAT THE WILDLIFE DIVISION DOES FOR GOAL 8: Conduct process mapping of current methods • Identify local experts to help others with processes • Provide input to Bureaucracy Busters

9

EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

\$ 153,754

General Fund

\$ 3,509,543

Federal (annual)

\$ 0

Federal (competitive)

\$ 1,038,378

Revenue From Pittman-Robertson Lands

\$ 131,583

Other State Funds

\$ 2,867,008

Game & Fish

\$ 153,538

Deer Range Improvement Program

\$ 182,351

Turkey

\$ 25,442

Nongame

\$ 8,061,596

Total Goal 9 Expenditures

Crystal Falls division staff members drew-down the **Hancock Creek Flooding** (Dickinson County) impoundment for water control structure maintenance and to reinvigorate the wetland. Periodic drawdowns of artificial marshland habitat is required to keep the marsh healthy and to prevent it from reaching a monoculture state.

Haymarsh State Game Area

(Mecosta County) replaced 25-year-old dam boards. This dam was first constructed in 1949 to provide over 400 acres of lake and marsh complex that is popular with duck hunters, fur trappers, anglers and campers. The DNR purchased the necessary 8-foot-long oak boards from a local sawmill, lowered the dam level over the summer to replace the old rotting boards, and then refilled the area.

Stoney Creek Dam (Cheboygan County) was developed in 1952 to provide an area for waterfowl during migrations and brood-rearing. Several deficiencies were identified in the concrete walls making up the dam itself. Other recommended repairs included filling holes on the top of the dike and slopes, and removing all woody vegetation encroaching the dike and structure. The project required multiple pieces of large equipment for the dirt work, concrete installations, and final grading. It was a challenge getting into this remote area with specialized heavy equipment, but it was done and the project was completed in late December.

A dam was built in 1949 to increase the size of **French Farm Lake** (Emmet County) to provide additional wildlife habitat for furbearers. Recent inspections from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) dam safety program revealed several maintenance recommendations necessary to keep our infrastructure in top working order. The DEQ recommended filling rodent burrows and divots on the dike and slope, replacing aging stop logs, repairing spillway deck concrete, cutting away any trees and brush encroaching the dike embankment, and removing debris in front of and behind the structure to allow better water flow through the dam. The division staff worked hard to fulfill these recommendations, and the project is now considered completed by the DEQ.

WHAT THE WILDLIFE DIVISION DOES FOR GOAL 9: Participate on technology teams • Conduct annual inventory • Purchase equipment and supplies • Conduct infrastructure inspections and prioritize infrastructure repairs • Maintain and update vehicles • Provide personal safety equipment

10

WORKFORCE

Creativity and Innovation Working Group

In fiscal year 2015, the division instituted the first PS Lovejoy Innovation and Creativity Award for division staff. While most staff members saw the results at the division's annual meeting, a great deal of thought and work on the part of the Creativity and Innovation working group went into making the award possible. The team discussed everything from how innovation can be cultivated or smothered, to the nuts and bolts of nomination and award winner selection.

Wildlife Division Continues to Hire Outstanding Staff

In fiscal year 2015, the following number of staff and positions were filled:

- 2 – Wildlife Assistants
- 3 – Wildlife Technicians
- 5 – Wildlife Biologists
- 2 – Natural Resources Managers
- 1 – Departmental Analyst
- 1 – Laboratory Technician

The division continues to supplement staffing needs with approximately 130 non-career appointments (wildlife assistants, state workers, student assistants) to assist staff in performing duties associated with the development and maintenance of wildlife habitat, deer-check duties and managed waterfowl areas, wildlife disease surveillance, research, and a variety of administrative duties.

WHAT THE WILDLIFE DIVISION DOES FOR GOAL 10: Develop and implement the Career Development University • Conduct surveys to measure employee satisfaction • Develop employee training plans • Work with partners on shared employment opportunities

\$ 13,913

General Fund

\$ 654,495

Federal (annual)

\$ 0

Federal (competitive)

\$ 0

Revenue From Pittman-Robertson Lands

\$ 3,804

Other State Funds

\$ 468,335

Game & Fish

\$ 13,913

Deer Range Improvement Program

\$ 5,968

Turkey

\$ 4,392

Nongame

\$ 1,164,820

Total Goal 10 Expenditures

11

FUNDING

\$ 16,465

General Fund

\$ 427,843

Federal (annual)

\$ 0

Federal (competitive)

\$ 0

Revenue From Pittman-Robertson Lands

\$ 2,104

Other State Funds

\$ 212,752

Game & Fish

\$ 17,657

Deer Range Improvement Program

\$ 7,765

Turkey

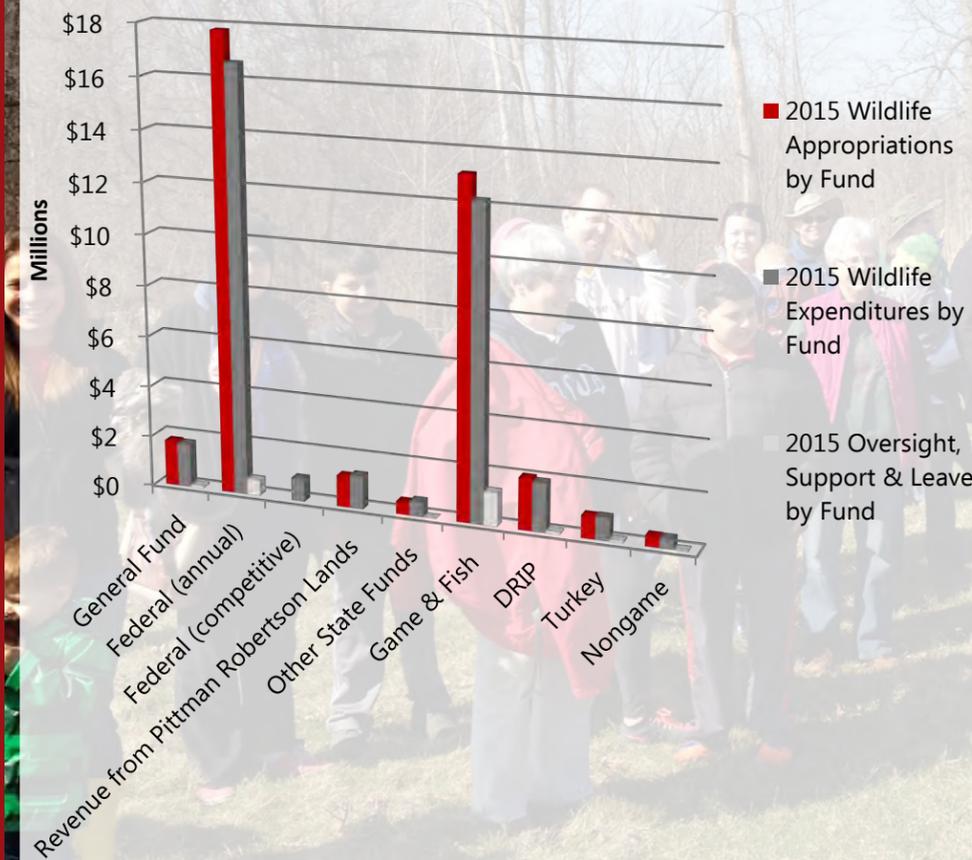
\$ 29,239

Nongame

\$ 713,825

Total Goal 11 Expenditures

2015 Annual Report



All in for Belle Isle

Belle Isle Park in Detroit became Michigan's 102nd state park in 2014 to assist in the revitalization of Detroit. Since the DNR Parks and Recreation Division took over the management of Belle Isle, the Wildlife Division has been a partner in the management of the island. The division has assisted with goose round-up and goose nest destruction on the island to bring goose populations to a socially acceptable level. The division also has hosted a series of wildlife hikes to help connect visitors with wildlife resources on the island. In fiscal year 2015, the division hosted six hikes with 146 total participants.

WHAT THE WILDLIFE DIVISION DOES FOR GOAL 11: Collaborate with partners to identify and pursue alternative funding sources • Identify gaps in funding • Monitor new federal funding opportunities • Monitor existing funding and budgets monthly

12

RESPONSIVE

The Response to Finding Yellow Floating Heart is a Team Effort

The division, under several GLRI grants, implemented the use of an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Early Detection and Response (EDR) Team beginning in 2011, and these efforts have continued up until the present. In fiscal year 2015, this team conducted surveys of inland water bodies and Great Lakes coastline to detect and map high-priority aquatic invasive plants. The team also conducted experimental treatments of these high-priority species, and conducted extensive monitoring to determine treatment effectiveness. Additionally, the team responded to several reports of aquatic invasive plants from citizens and partners. At this time, Yellow Floating Heart (YFH), an aquatic invasive plant never-detected in Michigan, was reported near University of Michigan (U of M) Dearborn.

A risk assessment completed by the USDA found YFH to be a significant threat to wetland wildlife and plant species native to Michigan. The team worked with U of M Dearborn staff members, and conducted surveys of the site where the plant was reported, as well as the surrounding area. The report was confirmed, and the first case of YFH in Michigan was verified. DNR staff assessed the extent of infestation, which was fortunately contained to a pond in an environmental area on the campus of U of M Dearborn. After reviewing treatment options, the EDR Team selected manual removal, and began removing all YFH biomass from the pond. In total, the team removed 1,050.85 pounds. DNR staff returned several times to monitor the site, and no new plant growth was observed this field season. The site will continue to be monitored and treated until YFH is eradicated from the area, and additional surveys are planned for next field season to search nearby water bodies.

Updating the GPS

The GPS sets the strategic direction for the division. The original was developed back in 2010, and was due for an update in 2015. To direct the update, an internal evaluation of the plan was conducted. Over 120 division staff member responded to the survey. Then, division staff members worked over the summer updating the goals, objectives, and strategies within the GPS based on the evaluation. This draft was shared with all staff to determine if the proposed changes were on track. Next, the draft was provided to stakeholders for their feedback. Look for the updated in 2016!

WHAT THE WILDLIFE DIVISION DOES FOR GOAL 12: Develop Metrics for GPS • Conduct climate change vulnerability assessments • Develop emerging issues reports • Report annual accomplishments to federal funding partners • Develop Wildlife Division annual report • Develop annual work plans for each section, region, and unit

\$ 0

General Fund

\$ 568,409

Federal (annual)

\$ 4,500

Federal (competitive)

\$ 0

Revenue From Pittman-Robertson Lands

\$ 0

Other State Funds

\$ 212,921

Game & Fish

\$ 0

Deer Range Improvement Program

\$ 3,054

Turkey

\$ 0

Nongame

\$ 788,885

Total Goal 12 Expenditures

Appendix

Federal Apportioned Funds

These funds are automatically apportioned to states, provided they meet certain eligibility requirements. Although transferred to the states in the form of grants, the states do not have to compete for these funds. These funds are particularly important because states can count on the monies being available and can plan for funding staff and long-term projects, as the level of funding is relatively predictable.

Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act Grants (PR) - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers this grant program that provides states with monies to manage wild birds and mammals. Funds for this program come from revenues collected by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service from an excise tax on the manufacture of certain types of sporting goods. The sporting goods covered by the Act are specified in the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. §§ 4161(b) and 4181, and include most types of firearms, ammunition, and bows and arrows. The monies in this fund are automatically apportioned to the 50 states based on a formula that considers both total land area and the number of certified license buyers in each state. Additionally, funds are provided for the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, America Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands. In order to spend these funds, states and territories must match the federal portion with non-federal funds at a ratio of 75 percent federal to 25 percent non-federal. Michigan, as with most states, uses fees collected from the sale of hunting licenses as the non-federal match for these grants.

State Wildlife Grants (SWG) – The State Wildlife Grant Program, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with funding from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas royalty revenues, assists states by providing funding for the development and implementation of programs that benefit designated Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Each state develops its own list of these species, typically those that are not hunted or fished. The purpose of this program is to assist the states in keeping common species common and stopping the decline of rare species to prevent them from being listed as threatened or endangered. Although these funds have been provided every year since 2002, they are appropriated through the annual federal budget process. Unlike Pittman-Robertson funds, SWG funds are not automatically appropriated; consequently, the Wildlife Division must wait for each year's federal budget to know if they will be available. These funds also require a non-federal match, with states required to provide 35 percent of the funds for implementation projects and 25 percent of the funds for planning projects.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, Traditional Conservation Grants – This grant program is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and in order to compete for these funds, states must have a cooperative program for the conservation of endangered and threatened species with the Secretary of the Interior. These funds can be used for the acquisition, enhancement, and protection of habitat for federally listed species, recovery and conservation of federally listed species, and surveys and research. This fund requires a 25 percent non-federal match.

Federal Competitive Funds

These are funds that certain federal agencies make available through a competitive application process. The types of funds and the funding programs available can vary from year to year. These opportunities pose planning and budgeting challenges because of the uncertainty in the Wildlife Division's abilities to secure them; however, some have become very important to the division's ability to accomplish certain aspects of its mission. Once successful in competing for these funds, most are available to be expended over multiple years so long-term projects can be supported. These funds, however, are difficult to use to assist in planning and supporting permanent staff positions and also add additional administrative and reporting responsibilities.

Competitive State Wildlife Grants (cSWG) – This is the competitive portion of the State Wildlife Grant Program, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the development and implementation of programs that benefit designated Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Of the total amount of SWG funds appropriated each year by the federal government, a portion is reserved for a competitive program to encourage projects with regional or multi-state benefits. These grants require at least a 25 percent non-federal match, with preference given to those projects with an even higher non-federal match. Michigan and its partners received three grants from this program for work in 2015.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, Nontraditional grants – Included in this program are Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grants, Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance grants, and Recovery Land Acquisition grants. In 2015, Michigan was awarded funding to begin development of a multi-state Habitat Conservation Plan for cave-dwelling bats and to assist conservation partners in the acquisition and protection of endangered species habitat.

Endangered Species Conservation – Recovery Implementation Funds – In 2015, Wildlife Division received money from this fund source to monitor bats for white-nose syndrome and to mitigate the impacts to Michigan bats now that the disease has been detected in the state.

Endangered Species Compensation - Wolf Livestock Loss – In 2015, Wildlife Division received these Fish and Wildlife Service administered funds to assist livestock producers with proactive, nonlethal activities to reduce the risk of livestock loss due to wolf depredation.

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation (NCWC) Grants – NCWC grants must be used to acquire, restore, or enhance coastal wetlands and adjacent uplands to provide long-term conservation benefits to fish, wildlife, and their habitat. Administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the grants require a 25 percent non-federal match. The Wildlife Division has used NCWC funds for land acquisition and management, and to fund partnership projects with other conservation organizations.

Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act Grant (GLFWRA) – This grant program is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to encourage cooperative conservation, restoration, and management of fish and wildlife resources and their habitats in the Great Lakes basin. These grants have a minimum 25 percent non-federal match requirement, and projects may take multiple years to complete. In the past, Wildlife Division has utilized GLFWRA funds for critical wetland management infrastructure improvements and invasive species control at Pte. Mouillee State Game Area and Shiawassee River State Game Area.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) - GLRI funds are distributed through multiple federal agencies to accelerate the restoration of the Great Lakes. Five urgent issues are addressed through this grant program: cleaning up toxics and areas of concern, combating invasive species, promoting nearshore health by protecting watersheds from polluted run-off, restoring wetlands and other habitats, and tracking progress and working with strategic partners. GLRI is the largest investment in the Great Lakes in two decades.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Avian Influenza (AI) – These federal funds, administered by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) have been made available to states to monitor for the presence of avian influenza in wild birds. States are eligible to apply for a predetermined portion of nationally available funds based on the severity of threat of avian influenza occurrence. Through a cooperative agreement, Michigan has used these funds primarily to monitor for the disease in waterfowl while banding ducks and geese and from hunter harvested ducks and geese. There are no non-federal match requirements.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) - The VPA-HIP program provides grants to state and tribal governments to encourage owners and operators of privately held farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make the land available for access by the public for wildlife-dependent recreation, including hunting, fishing, and other compatible recreation and to improve fish and wildlife habitat on their land. The DNR is utilizing VPA-HIP funds to expand its Hunting Access Program to provide more opportunities for hunting in southern Michigan.

State Funds

Game and Fish Protection Fund – This legislatively established fund is principally derived from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses; the cost of licenses is set legislatively. By law, expenditures from this fund can only be used for fish and wildlife management programs. Management, research, and enforcement of fishing and hunting laws and acquisition of lands to be used for hunting and fishing purposes are examples of ways this fund is used.

Game and Fish Protection Fund – Deer (DRIP) – This legislatively established fund comes from \$1.50 of each deer license sold. By law, expenditures from this fund can only be used for improving and maintaining habitat for deer and for the acquisition of lands for an effective program of deer habitat management.

Game and Fish Protection Fund – Turkey – This legislatively established fund comes from a portion of each wild turkey license and application sold (\$9.50 resident, \$1 senior resident and \$3 application). By law, expenditures from this fund can only be used for scientific research and survey work on wild turkeys and wild turkey management.

Game and Fish Protection Fund – Waterfowl – Historically known as duck stamp revenue, this legislatively established fund comes from the \$12 for each waterfowl license sold. \$9 from each license shall be used to acquire, restore, or enhance wetlands and other lands to be managed for the benefit of waterfowl. \$1.93 from each license shall be used to operate, maintain, and develop managed waterfowl areas, and the remaining amount shall be retained in the fund or used for administration.

Game and Fish Protection Fund – Revenue from Pittman- Robertson-Acquired Land – This fund is derived from revenues earned from commercial activities that are incidental to wildlife management on lands acquired with federal Pittman-Robertson grants. The source of this income is primarily through timber sales conducted to achieve particular habitat management objectives. These funds are used for maintenance of state game areas.

Nongame Fish and Wildlife Fund/Non-game Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund – This legislatively established fund comes through Michigan's Conserve Wildlife Habitat license plate, the sale of certain merchandise by the Wildlife Division, and donations. By law, expenditures from this fund can only be used for the research and management of non-game fish and wildlife and designated endangered animal and plant species. Non-game fish and wildlife means those free-ranging species not ordinarily taken for sport, fur, or food.

General Fund-General Purpose (GF/GP) – General Fund-General Purpose revenues, collected in the main State operating fund, are not dedicated to a specific purpose by statute. The Wildlife Division's GF/GP is used primarily for wildlife disease monitoring and privately owned cervidae oversight.

DNR Mission

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.

Thank you!

Wildlife Division Mission

To enhance, restore, and conserve the State's wildlife resources, natural communities, and ecosystems for the benefit of Michigan's citizens, visitors, and future generations.