

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



K. L. COOL, DIRECTOR

Stevens T. Mason Building, 6th Floor
P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: (517) 373-2329
www.michigan.gov/dnr

The **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use, and enjoyment of the state's natural resources for current and future generations, a role it has relished since creation of the original Conservation Department in 1921. Its primary charge is to protect and conserve the state's natural resources, provide and develop facilities for outdoor recreation, prevent destruction of forest resources by fire or otherwise, promote reforestation of state-owned lands, protect against pollution of lakes and streams, and foster protection and propagation of game and fish.

Governor John Engler issued Executive Order No. 1995-18, which separated environmental protection and natural resources management functions into two departments, allowing the DNR to return to its original conservation mission. The Department of Environmental Quality focuses on environmental regulatory, permitting, and related enforcement functions; and the DNR focuses on promoting diverse outdoor recreational opportunities, wildlife and fisheries management, management of state parks and recreation areas, state lands and minerals, forest management and wildfire protection, and conservation and law enforcement.



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Term expires

JIM CAMPBELL, New Boston.....	Dec. 31, 2003
KEITH J. CHARTERS, Traverse City (Chair).....	Dec. 31, 2005
PAUL EISELE, Taylor.....	Dec. 31, 2003
BOB GARNER, Cadillac	Dec. 31, 2006
JOHN M. MADIGAN, Munising	Dec. 31, 2006
WILLIAM U. PARFET, Mattawan	Dec. 31, 2004
FRANK C. WHEATLAKE, Reed City	Dec. 31, 2004

The **Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC)** is a 7-member public body, whose members are appointed by the governor and subject to the advice and consent of the senate. The NRC's primary authority flows from the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (Act 451 of 1994, as amended). This act codified nearly 200 applicable statutes, many dating back to the 1800s. Voter adoption of Proposal G in 1996 vests exclusive authority in the NRC to regulate the taking of game. Citizens are encouraged to attend and become actively involved in its regularly scheduled monthly public forums.

The commission hires the department director. The director functions as the department's chief executive officer, monitors program activities to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of department operations, and ensures that the department's mission, policies, and statutory mandates are met. The director's primary authority flows from the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (Act 451 of 1994, as amended) and is authorized by Executive Order No. 1991-31 to delegate decision-making authorities to appropriate levels within the department.



The **Fisheries Division** protects and enhances public trust in Michigan's fish populations, as well as other forms of aquatic life, and promotes optimum use of these resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

Michigan offers a wealth of fishing opportunities with its two peninsulas touching four of the five Great Lakes and is blessed with more than 11,000 inland lakes and 36,000 miles of rivers and streams, including 1,000 miles of blue-ribbon trout streams. Michigan has 3,000 miles of freshwater shoreline — more than any other state — and more total shoreline than any state except Alaska. In Michigan, you're never more than 85 miles from one of the Great Lakes.

Fish are monitored and studied by biologists who strive to keep Michigan fishing among the nation's best. Up to 14 fish species are reared and hatched at the state's recently renovated six state hatcheries, and then planted into designated waters to maintain or improve fish populations. Michigan ranks fourth in the nation in fishing with 1.5 million resident licensed anglers, who, together with 400,000 nonresident anglers, contribute \$4.3 billion annually to Michigan's economy.

Fishing licenses can be purchased at 1,700 retail outlets, at DNR Operations Service Centers, at select pilot kiosks around the state, and via the Internet at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

The **Wildlife Division** protects and enhances public trust in Michigan's wildlife resources, natural communities, and ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations.

Wild animals — from black bear and white-tailed deer to bald eagles and bullfrogs — bring rich diversity of life to our lands. The Wildlife Division manages and protects 400 species of game and nongame birds and mammals, and their habitats, along with 70 state game and recreation areas. Biologists make recommendations on hunting regulations, habitat management, and public hunting access, and protect more than 64 threatened and endangered plant and animal species.

Michigan ranks first in the nation in hunting in almost every category with nearly 1 million licensed hunters contributing \$2 billion annually to our economy, excluding license fees, while some 2.6 million nonconsumptive users contribute \$1.2 billion annually to Michigan's economy. The Nongame Fish and Wildlife Fund, supported through donations and the purchase of the Michigan Wildlife Habitat license plate, supports natural heritage research, education, and habitat restoration projects to identify, protect, manage, and restore native plant and animal species.

Many hunting licenses can be purchased at 1,700 retail license agents, at DNR Operations Service Centers, at select pilot kiosks around the state, and via the Internet at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

The **Parks and Recreation Bureau** designs, develops, and manages Michigan's state parks, recreation areas, and boating facilities for the benefit of current and future generations.

Michigan's 97 state parks host 25 million visitors a year and contribute \$250 million to the state's economy and \$200 million more in direct visitor spending to retail businesses in local communities. In addition to natural features and historic sites, visitors annually enjoy camping, picnic areas, shelters, playgrounds, beach houses, boat launches, swimming, hiking, biking, horseback riding, and wildlife watching.

Voter approval of the Clean Michigan Initiative in 1998 — the largest environmental bond proposal in the nation at the time — provided \$50 million for vital infrastructure repairs and upgrades at state parks and campgrounds. Michigan has 1,200 public launch sites (738 maintained by the DNR) and 81 designated Great Lakes Harbors of Refuge (16 are state-administered and 65 are managed by local governing units). Michigan registers a million boats a year — more than any other state in the nation — and recreational boating contributes \$2 billion annually to Michigan's economy.

Michigan was a national pioneer in offering citizens the opportunity to make reservations via a centralized reservation system for state parks and recreation area campgrounds by calling 800-44-PARKS. Reservations can also be made online.

More than half a million citizens have visited DNR “pocket parks” at the State Fairgrounds in Detroit and Escanaba, enjoying catch-and-release fishing ponds, pellet gun and archery opportunities, and educational exhibits displaying Michigan’s myriad outdoor wonders and public trust responsibilities of DNR professionals.

The **Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division** protects, manages, and guides the use of a healthy forest resource base for the social, recreational, environmental, and economic benefit of current and future generations.

Spanning 3.9 million acres, Michigan has the largest dedicated state forest system in the nation, including three state forests in the Upper Peninsula and three in the Lower Peninsula. Forests are popular spots for camping (150 rustic campgrounds), wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, backpacking, and horseback riding. Michigan maintains a network of 6,100 miles of groomed snowmobile trails, registers more snowmobiles than any other state, and is a national leader in the rails-to-trails movement.

The division administers 5.9 million acres of Michigan’s mineral estate and leases rights to explore for state-owned oil and gas, contributing \$20 million to \$30 million annually in royalties to Michigan’s unique Natural Resources Trust Fund for recreational land acquisition and development.

This division also manages the use of forests for timber production, new tree growth (growing trees at 2½ times the rate of harvest), recreation, and wildlife habitat. Foresters regularly examine trees, plants, and soil characteristics to determine the best management practices to keep Michigan forests healthy and productive. Fire officers protect both public and private lands from wildfires. Forest timber products industries and recreational users contribute \$12 billion and 200,000 associated jobs annually to Michigan’s economy.

The **Law Enforcement Division** boasts the first paid game wardens in the country. Michigan Conservation Officers (COs) protect the state’s natural resources, environment, and public health and safety through effective law enforcement and education, for current and future generations.

Michigan Conservation Officers (COs) are provided state-of-the-art technological equipment, i.e., Global Positioning Systems, Automatic Vehicle Locaters, a statewide 800 MHz radio system, and laptop computers, to enhance officer safety and assist in enforcing laws related to hunting, fishing, and trapping and the operation of boats, snowmobiles, and recreational vehicles. Officers also work with other state, federal, and local law enforcement agencies to enforce a wide range of statutes and assist in undercover investigations, fire prevention, and emergency search, rescue, and recovery operations. Officers help locate lost hunters, provide emergency medical assistance, and play an integral role in the department’s educational public outreach efforts with conservation organizations, community groups, and schools. Conservation Officers frequently help establish, and serve as instructors of, recreational safety programs for hunters, boaters, and operators of recreational vehicles. The Report All Poaching (RAP) Hotline is 800-292-7800.

The **Office of Education and Outreach** designs, coordinates, and guides the communication of core DNR messages on a statewide basis to a variety of audiences.

The office oversees the department’s interpretive education efforts at seven state park visitor centers and two state fish hatchery visitor centers. Through the use of graphics, audio, and interactive computer displays, these centers interpret Michigan’s natural resource and cultural history and, over the years, have become resource centers for the entire state and a focal point for resource education. More than 1,370,000 citizens, including 411,000 school children, visit these facilities each year.

The department’s award-winning L.A.P.’s Project is an innovative youth outdoor education and outreach program. The primary objective: Help teachers, students, and families *Learn* more about Michigan’s natural resources, gain an *Appreciation* of Michigan outdoors, and *Preserve* Michigan’s outdoor heritage. The L.A.P.’s curriculum integrates natural-resource messages into lesson plans for language arts, science, math, and social studies, and offers fourth-grade teachers ready-to-use materials to help them better prepare their students for the mandatory Michigan Education Assessment Program tests. The supporting elements include an Outdoor Explorers Club newsletter, which currently is mailed home to more than 55,000 members; a Kids-in-the-Park program that brings the curriculum “to life” during field visits to state parks and an interactive Internet site that combines fun and learning. The L.A.P.’s program, which is totally funded by the DNR and free to all teachers who request it, is being used by more than 120,000 students in over 4,000 fourth-grade classrooms in Michigan.

Recognized as one of the leading outreach programs of its kind in the country, Michigan’s Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Program is committed to offering women the chance to learn outdoor skills in a comfortable atmosphere.

The **Administrative Services Divisions** provide a complete range of financial and administrative support services to the DNR.

The importance of utilizing customer-friendly service technologies, sound accounting principles, and best business practices, as well as proper contract administration in the management of Michigan's natural resources cannot be overstated. Administrative Services Divisions include: Human Resources; Program Assistance and Review; Financial Services; Budget and Support Services; Grants, Contracts, and Customer Systems; and Lands and Facilities.

MICHIGAN FOREST FINANCE AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

General Public

Term expires

RONALD D. DEMLOW, Blanchard July 24, 2001
ROBERT E. LEE, Iron Mountain July 24, 2000
RUSSELL WEISINGER, Baraga Feb. 24, 2002

ex officio

K. L. COOL, Director, Department of Natural Resources
JAY B. RISING, State Treasurer

Executive Director

BERNARD HUBBARD, State Forester

The **Michigan Forest Finance Authority**, created by Part 505, Act 451 of 1994 (formerly Act 280 of 1990 and Act 351 of 1993), is a body corporate within the Department of Natural Resources whose purpose is to oversee the Michigan Forest Development Fund. The authority finances investments in improved timber management on the most productive portions of the state forests through the issuance of direct revenue bonds. Investments are made in timber stand improvement, forest protection, regeneration, and other areas of timber management in which investments will earn 4% or more over and above inflation. Bonds are repaid from the increased future timber sale receipts generated as a result of the investments.

Members of the board of directors of the Michigan Forest Finance Authority include three residents of the state who are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, for 3-year terms. The other two members of the board are the director of the Department of Natural Resources and the state treasurer or their designees.

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Term expires

STEVEN D. ARWOOD, St. Johns Oct. 1, 2005
KEVIN E. JOHNSON, Gaylord Oct. 1, 2003
JAMES B. THOMPSON, Reed City Oct. 1, 2004
SAM WASHINGTON, Lansing Oct. 1, 2006

BOB GARNER, representing the Natural Resources Commission

The **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund** was created by Act 101 of 1985 for the purpose of determining which lands and rights-in-lands should be acquired and which public facilities should be developed for resource protection or outdoor recreation purposes. The board of trustees of the fund submits to the legislature a list of those lands, rights-in-lands, and facilities to be developed, in order of priority. The list must then be approved by the legislature before purchases are made.

Four of the five board members are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, to serve 4-year terms. Upon expiration of a term, a member can continue to serve until a successor is appointed. One member shall be the director of the Department of Natural Resources or a member of the Natural Resources Commission.

MICHIGAN SNOWMOBILE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Business Community *Term expires*
PAUL ARGALL, Ishpeming Dec. 31, 2003

Grant Sponsor
ELZA INMAN, Brethren Dec. 31, 2004

Michigan Snowmobile Association
Upper Peninsula, Region I
JIM DUKE, Munising Dec. 31, 2003

Northern Lower Peninsula, Region II
DANA WILTSE, Standish Dec. 31, 2004

Southern Lower Peninsula, Region III
BILL MANSON, Grand Rapids Dec. 31, 2003

General Public
LEE MURRAY, Hopkins Dec. 31, 2004
ORVILLE OLSON, Ludington Dec. 31, 2004

ex officio
DAN MOORE, Newberry, Forest, Mineral, and Fire Management,
Department of Natural Resources
CURTIS BACON, Marquette, Law Enforcement, Department of Natural Resources
RANDY CHARLES, USDA, Forest Service, Ottawa National Forest
ANNE OKONEK, USDA, Forest Service, Hiawatha National Forest
SGT. MARVIN WALTER, Kalkaska County Sheriff Department
TERRY L. JOHNSON, Antrim County Sheriff Department

The **Michigan Snowmobile Advisory Committee** was created by Executive Order No. 1994-11. The seven committee members are appointed by the director of the Department of Natural Resources. The nonvoting ex officio members are appointed by their respective division chiefs.

The committee advises the department regarding the development of criteria for safety education and training programs; allocation of funds from the recreational snowmobile trail improvement fund; development of annual updates to the comprehensive plan for implementing a statewide recreational and snowmobile trail system; recommendations made by snowmobile users regarding trails that should be designated for snowmobile use; and a comprehensive plan for the use of snowmobiles in this state.

Ex officio members are nonvoting staff advisors to the committee. They are appointed by the appropriate division chief or department head. The Forest Service representative is appointed by the Regional Forester for Forest Service Region 9.



MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

Upper Peninsula *Term expires*
FRANK P. OPOLKA, Iron Mountain Sept. 18, 2004

General Public/Lower Peninsula North of Townline 16
ROBERT G. SPICER, Houghton Lake Sept. 18, 2003

**General Public/Marine Trade Industries
That Do Not Own or Operate a Harbor,
Marina, or Boat Dealership**
JOHN A. WINN, Charlevoix (Chair) Sept. 18, 2005

General Public/Owner-Operator of a Harbor
DAVID R. GIFFIN, Petoskey (Vice Chair) Sept. 18, 2005

MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION (*Cont.*)

General Public

Term expires

E. PETER BEAUREGARD, Algonac Sept. 18, 2003

DAVID V. JOHNSON, Clarkston Sept. 18, 2004

JON G. VANDERMOLLEN, Richland Sept. 18, 2003

Staff to the Commission

GEORGE E. BURGOYNE, JR., Resource Management Deputy

Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 30028

Lansing, MI 48909

The **Michigan State Waterways Commission** was created by Act 320 of 1947 and transferred to the Department of Natural Resources on January 1, 1966. The commission is responsible for advising the Department of Natural Resources concerning the acquisition, construction, and maintenance of recreational harbors, channels, docking and launching facilities, and administration of commercial docks in the Straits of Mackinac.

The commission members are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, to serve 3-year terms. Upon expiration of a term, a member may continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

