

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

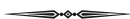


REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES, DIRECTOR

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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

MARY C. BROWN, Kalamazoo	Dec. 31, 2007
KEITH J. CHARTERS, Traverse City (Chair)	Dec. 31, 2005
DARNELL EARLEY, Lansing	Dec. 31, 2008
BOB GARNER, Cadillac	Dec. 31, 2006
GERALD R. HALL, JR., Gaines	Dec. 31, 2007
JOHN M. MADIGAN, Munising	Dec. 31, 2006
FRANKLIN C. WHEATLAKE, Reed City	Dec. 31, 2008

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** is mandated to protect and manage the state's aquatic resources, including fish populations and other aquatic life, which are held in trust by all Michigan citizens. The division promotes wise 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. The state 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 populations and other forms of aquatic life are monitored and studied by biologists, who strive to ensure their long-term protection while keeping fishing in Michigan among the nation's best. Up to 14 fish species are hatched and reared at six state hatcheries, which recently were renovated to ensure state-of-the-art facilities that produce fish of very high quality. These fish are stocked annually into designated public waters throughout the state to maintain or improve fish populations. Michigan ranks eighth in the nation in fishing with 1 million resident licensed anglers, who, together with 400,000 nonresident anglers, contribute \$2 billion annually to Michigan's economy.

Fishing licenses can be purchased at more than 1,700 retail outlets, at DNR Operations Service Centers, 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 more than 900,000 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.

Hunting licenses can be purchased at more than 1,700 retail outlets, at DNR Operations Service Centers, and via the Internet at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

The **Parks and Recreation Division** protects, preserves, acquires, and manages Michigan's state parks, recreation areas, and boating facilities for the benefit of current and future generations. The Parks and Recreation Division is supported wholly by user fees, paid by visitors through camping, motor vehicle permits, and boater registration fees, one of only a few state park systems in the nation without overall tax-base support.

Michigan's 97 state parks host 25 million visitors a year and play an important role in Michigan's tourism industry. A 1997 study revealed that visitors to state parks spent an estimated \$464 million, about half of that within 20 miles of their destination. In addition to natural features and historic sites, visitors enjoy a diverse selection of outdoor recreation opportunities including picnic areas, shelters, playgrounds, beach houses, fishing, swimming, hiking, biking, horseback riding, and wildlife watching. Camping options include modern, electric-only and rustic campsites, along with rustic, mini and camper cabins.

Michigan has 1,300 public launch sites (nearly 800 maintained by the DNR) and 94 designated Great Lakes Harbors of Refuge, 79 of which offer developed facilities. Of those 79, 16 are state-administered and 63 are managed by local governing units. Michigan registers a million boats a year and recreational boating contributes more than \$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. Boaters also can access an online reservation system to reserve transient slips at 35 harbors and marinas on the Great Lakes.

The new Citizens Committee for State Parks was created by legislation signed into law in 2004. The 17-member committee began to meet in March 2005 and will continue to meet regularly to provide citizen input related to planning, operations, and financing the state park system.

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 3.8 million acres, Michigan has the largest dedicated state forest system in the nation. These forests are popular for camping (150 rustic campgrounds), wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, backpacking, and horseback riding. Michigan maintains a network of over 10,000 miles of designated motorized trails, registers more snowmobiles and boats than any other state, and is a national leader in the rails-to-trails movement.

The division administers 6.1 million acres of Michigan's mineral estate, which includes leasing the rights to explore for state-owned metallic, nonmetallic, oil and gas minerals and underground gas storage areas. Administration includes the monitoring of over 6,000 mineral leases, contributing \$40 million to \$55 million annually to Michigan's unique Natural Resources Trust Fund for recreational land acquisition and development and the Game and Fish Protection Trust Fund.

This division also manages the use of forests for timber production, tree growth and forest regeneration, soil and water quality protection, recreation, and wildlife habitat. Foresters regularly examine trees, plants, and soil characteristics to assess forest conditions and determine management practices to keep Michigan forests healthy and productive. Fire officers protect approximately 20 million acres of 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 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 are provided state-of-the-art technological equipment, i.e., global positioning systems, automatic vehicle locators, 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, snowmobilers, boaters, and operators of recreational vehicles. The Report All Poaching (RAP) Hotline is 800-292-7800.

The **Office of Communications** 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. More than 1,370,000 citizens, including 411,000 school children, visit these facilities each year.

Helping teachers and students to *Learn* from the past, *Appreciate* the present, and *Preserve* Michigan's outdoor heritage, the L.A.P.'s™ program is an innovative youth outdoor education and outreach fourth-grade curriculum, integrating natural-resource messages into lesson plans for language arts, science, math, and social studies.

Other outreach efforts include a summer State Park Explorer program at 40 state parks, a Kids-in-the-Park program to encourage school field trips to the parks in the fall and spring, and the development of new outreach programs for grades 3-5 that have a special emphasis on wildlife and forest management.

The Office of Communications also oversees Michigan's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program. Recognized as one of the leading outreach programs of its kind in the country, BOW is committed to offering women the chance to learn outdoor skills in a comfortable atmosphere.

The office also has responsibility for all press and media functions and for managing the department's Web site. Receiving more than 1.3 million page views per month, the Web site provides a wide range of user-friendly online services from purchasing hunting or fishing licenses and making camping and harbor reservations, to locating a boating public access site and where to find the best places in Michigan to view wildlife.

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 NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Term expires

STEVEN K. HAMP, Ann Arbor	Oct. 1, 2005
LANA B. POLLACK, Ann Arbor	Oct. 1, 2007
FRANK TORRE, JR., Bloomfield Hills	Oct. 1, 2008
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

JACK NELSON, Greenville.	Dec. 31, 2005
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Grant Sponsor

ELZA INMAN, Brethren.	Dec. 31, 2006
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Michigan Snowmobile Association

Upper Peninsula, Region I

JIM DUKE, Munising	Dec. 31, 2006
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Northern Lower Peninsula, Region II

WILLIAM LUCAS, Cadillac	Dec. 31, 2005
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Southern Lower Peninsula, Region III

BILL MANSON, Grand Rapids.	Dec. 31, 2005
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General Public

LEE MURRAY, Hopkins	Dec. 31, 2006
ORVILLE OLSON, Ludington.	Dec. 31, 2004

MICHIGAN SNOWMOBILE ADVISORY COMMITTEE *(Cont.)*

ex officio

STEVE KUBISIAK, Lansing, Forest, Mineral, and Fire Management,
Department of Natural Resources
CREIG GREY, Lansing, Law Enforcement, Department of Natural Resources
RANDY CHARLES, USDA, Forest Service, Ottawa National Forest
ANNE OKONEK, USDA, Forest Service, Hiawatha National Forest
ROSE INGRAM, USDA, Forest Service, Huron-Manistee National Forest
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

GLEN D. BAILEY, Drummond Island Sept. 18, 2007

General Public/Lower Peninsula North of Townline 16

JANET M. MANSFIELD, Alpena Sept. 18, 2006

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. Sept. 18, 2005

General Public

CURTIS A. HERTEL, SR., Grosse Pointe Woods Sept. 18, 2006

CAROL B. OAKLEY, Trenton Sept. 18, 2006

TODD A. WYETT, Bloomfield Village Sept. 18, 2007

Staff to the Commission

MINDY KOCH, Resource Management Deputy
Department of Natural Resources

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 operation of recreational harbors, channels, docking and launching facilities, and administration of commercial docks in the Straits of Mackinac. The commission meets six times each year in locations throughout the state. A schedule of meetings, agendas, and topics for review are listed on the DNR Web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

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.