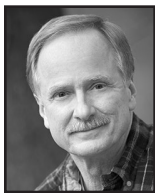


# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



## **KEITH CREAGH, DIRECTOR**

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The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use, and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations — a role it has embraced since the creation of Michigan's original Conservation Department in 1921.

The director serves 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 (Public Act 451 of 1994, as amended) and is authorized by Executive Order 1991-31 to delegate decision-making authorities to appropriate levels within the department.

DNR divisions, programs, and offices are housed within two main bureaus (Resource and Administration), while some other positions report directly to the department director.

### ***Resource Bureau***

The Resource Bureau includes the Fisheries Division, the Forest Resources Division, the Law Enforcement Division, the Parks and Recreation Division, the Wildlife Division and Minerals Management.

The **Fisheries Division** ([www.michigan.gov/fishing](http://www.michigan.gov/fishing)) is mandated to protect and manage the state's aquatic resources, including fish populations, other aquatic life, and habitat that are held in trust for all Michigan citizens. The division promotes the wise use of these resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

Michigan offers a wealth of fishing opportunities with its two peninsulas that touch four of the five Great Lakes. The state is blessed with more than 11,000 inland lakes and tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams. Michigan has 3,000 miles of freshwater shoreline — more than any other state. In Michigan, you are never more than 85 miles from one of the Great Lakes. For the past several years, waterbodies in Michigan have ranked among the top 100 bass lakes according to *Bassmaster* magazine. This includes Lake St. Clair, which has made the top 10 several times.

Fish populations and other forms of aquatic life are monitored and studied by biologists who strive to ensure these resources' 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 have state-of-the-art facilities to 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 seventh in the nation in fishing, with 1.1 million licensed anglers who annually contribute more than \$4 billion to Michigan's economy.

The **Forest Resources Division** ([www.michigan.gov/forestry](http://www.michigan.gov/forestry)) manages, protects, and provides for the sustainable use of Michigan's forest resources. Michigan has one of the largest dedicated state

forest systems in the nation, spanning four million acres. This division sustainably manages those acres to provide critical habitat for wildlife, valuable resources for a thriving timber products industry (which adds \$20 billion a year to Michigan's economy), and beautiful outdoor spaces for recreation. Michigan's forests and other land-based industries play a crucial role in supporting regional and rural economies. Forest health program staff and DNR partners work to ensure forest vitality by detecting, monitoring, and managing forest health issues. The Forest Resources Division is also charged with protecting state forest resources and private land across the state through its nationally recognized wildfire suppression program.

The **Law Enforcement Division** ([www.michigan.gov/conservationofficers](http://www.michigan.gov/conservationofficers)) is home to Michigan's conservation officers. It is Michigan's oldest statewide law enforcement agency, created in 1887. Conservation officers use law enforcement and education to protect Michigan's natural resources and environment for the health, safety, and enjoyment of the public. They are state-licensed law enforcement officers with authority to enforce all criminal and civil laws in Michigan. While primarily enforcing regulations for outdoor recreation activities such as off-road vehicle use, snowmobiling, boating, hunting, and fishing, they also provide traditional law enforcement assistance, when needed, to communities across the state and often serve as first responders. The Law Enforcement Division handles many other responsibilities, including education, recreational safety, and public outreach. The division also provides investigative and enforcement services and coordinates emergency management and homeland security responsibilities for the department.

The division continually evolves to meet new challenges and deliver more effective service. Additional staffing, harnessing technology, and training in the latest investigative techniques are key drivers of its success. New officers have been hired each year since Fiscal Year 2014 thanks to funding investments by the state. Now, more than 200 sworn officers fill its ranks. To stay on the cutting edge of technology, the division enhanced its Report All Poaching system in 2017 to accept text messages, including photographs.

The **Parks and Recreation Division** ([www.michigan.gov/stateparks](http://www.michigan.gov/stateparks)) protects, preserves, acquires, and manages Michigan's state parks, cultural, and historic resources within state parks, trails, state forests, and more than 1,300 boat launches. The division also operates 19 state harbors and partners with 63 locally operated public harbors that make up the Harbors of Refuge system. Michigan's 103 state parks annually host more than 26 million visitors and are a major attraction for Michigan's tourism industry, contributing \$650 million to the state's economy in day-use visits and camping alone.

The Recreation Passport ([www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport](http://www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport)) grants vehicle access to Michigan state parks, recreation areas, state trailhead parking, and fee-based boat launches, while also helping to sustain the natural, historic, and cultural places that make Michigan a great place to live. Michigan residents get all this by simply checking "YES" for the Recreation Passport when annually renewing a Michigan license plate through the Secretary of State (\$11 for vehicles, \$5 for motorcycles). In addition to supporting statewide recreation, the Recreation Passport also provides communities with recreation development grants for projects that provide health benefits, enhance property values, drive local economies, and improve quality of life.

Michigan's 12,500 miles of state-designated trails connect hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, off-road vehicle users, kayakers, and snowmobilers to Michigan's great outdoors. In addition, Michigan is home to the Iron Belle Trail — the longest designated state trail in the nation — encompassing 791 miles of biking trails and 1,273 miles of hiking trails. It extends from Belle Isle in Detroit to Ironwood in the western Upper Peninsula. The trail is more than 60 percent complete and funding is still being secured to complete the trail. The DNR recently announced 16 communities that will share \$350,000 in funding toward the development of this trail.

The **Wildlife Division's** ([www.michigan.gov/wildlife](http://www.michigan.gov/wildlife)) mission is "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." The conservation of more than 400 species of animals — the birds and mammals that sustain our state's hunting heritage, as well as nongame wildlife, including threatened and endangered plant and animal species — is part of that mission. In addition, the Wildlife Division co-manages the state forests with the DNR Forest Resources Division and directly administers approximately 400,000 acres of state game and wildlife management areas.

Michigan is among the top states in the nation in almost every hunting category, with more than 700,000 licensed hunters contributing \$2.3 billion annually to the state economy, while Michigan's wildlife watchers spend \$1.2 billion each year.

Monitoring the health of Michigan's wildlife is a critical component of wildlife management. With the finding of chronic wasting disease in a free-ranging deer herd in May 2015, the division has

spent enormous time and resources understanding the extent of this fatal disease while working to stop its spread. In addition, bovine tuberculosis continues to be a disease that affects the state's free-ranging deer and livestock industry.

The **Office of Minerals Management** ([www.michigan.gov/minerals](http://www.michigan.gov/minerals)) manages 6.4 million acres of Michigan's mineral estate, which includes leasing the rights to explore and pursue development of state-owned metallic, nonmetallic, and oil and gas minerals, as well as underground natural gas storage areas. Royalty revenue from these leases typically contributes between \$30 million and \$60 million annually to the Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund for parks improvement and to the Game and Fish Protection Trust Fund for game and fish management.

This office also provides geological and mineral resource evaluation services for department land transactions and works closely with other state agencies, industry and environmental groups and the public on matters related to these vital natural resources-based economies.

## ***Administration Bureau***

The Administration Bureau includes the Finance and Operations Division, the Marketing and Outreach Division, the Michigan Historical Center and the Technology Section.

The **Finance and Operations Division** provides budget and financial services, facilities and infrastructure management, construction of shooting ranges, real estate, grants management, purchasing, field operations support, and business operations. Providing excellent internal and external customer service is the division's number one priority.

The **Marketing and Outreach Division** provides an array of services, including communications, website administration, license sales customer systems, marketing, and educational programs for all ages and experience levels. The division's efforts chiefly are designed to find creative, new ways to get more Michigan residents and visitors outside, enjoying our state's unmatched natural spaces and taking advantage of a growing variety of recreational opportunities.

The **Michigan History Center** ([www.michigan.gov/mhc](http://www.michigan.gov/mhc)) fosters curiosity, enjoyment, and inspiration rooted in Michigan's stories. It includes the Michigan History Museum in Lansing, 10 regional historic sites and museums, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, and the Archives of Michigan. These educational, interactive sites annually welcome more than 380,000 visitors of all ages, including 50,000 schoolchildren who explore the Michigan History Museum. The center also includes the Michigan Historical Marker program, a heritage trails program, the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission, the Michigan Historical Commission, the Michigan Iron Industry Museum Advisory Board, and the Michigan State Historic Records Advisory Board. The center's Seeking Michigan website ([www.seekingmichigan.org](http://www.seekingmichigan.org)) boasts some three million unique visits and 16 million page views each year.

The **Technology Section** provides central coordination for the department's information-technology activities. It serves as the primary point of contact in working with the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget to address department IT priorities, status and needs.



The DNR also encompasses several entities, offices, committees, and commissions that provide essential support and guidance to the above-referenced programs and help preserve, promote, and interpret Michigan's natural, historic and cultural resources. They include:

The **Upper Peninsula Regional Office** serves to represent the department and director in the Upper Peninsula by working closely with stakeholders, media outlets, community organizations, local units of government, elected officials, and the public to build awareness and understanding of department policies and programs, natural resource-related issues, and outdoor recreation opportunities.

The **Public Information Office** works closely with the executive office and department divisions to coordinate the communication of core DNR messages to a variety of statewide audiences, serves as primary contact for media representatives, and partners in the marketing of department initiatives, programs, and services — all in an effort to strengthen the public's connection to Michigan's natural and cultural resources.

The **Legislative and Legal Affairs Office** works with the Office of Attorney General on litigation involving state properties, employees, and natural resource-related issues. Staff also focus its efforts on administrative rules and regulations and emerging natural and cultural resources issues, strengthening the department's relationship with the Legislature, helping to evaluate and set department

policy, and assisting the director and management team with strategic planning, implementation of department priorities, and special assignments. The office provides guidance in response to Freedom of Information Act requests and assists in drafting and updating department policies and procedures, administrative rules, and DNR director's orders for land use, fisheries, and wildlife conservation. The office maintains original, signed memoranda of understanding and other interagency agreements and makes recommendations on contract and grant agreement language.

This office also manages tribal coordination efforts and works to develop and sustain positive and mutually beneficial, cooperative relationships with Michigan's tribal governments, with emphasis on the natural resource provisions related to the 1836 Treaty (with its associated Great Lakes and Inland Consent Decrees) and the 1842 Treaty's natural resource components.

The **Michigan Natural Resources Commission** ([www.michigan.gov/nrc](http://www.michigan.gov/nrc)) is a seven-member public body whose members are appointed by the governor and subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. The commission has the exclusive authority to regulate the taking of game and sportfish and is authorized to designate game species and the establishment of the first open season for animals. Residents are encouraged to attend and become actively involved in the commission's regularly scheduled public meetings.

The **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund** ([www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants)) was created in 1976 as a sustainable funding source for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation opportunities in Michigan. Funds for these grants are derived from interest paid on the proceeds of oil and gas sales on state-managed land — thus trading one non-renewable resource for another. Applications for Trust Fund grants are available to local and state governments. Projects are encouraged to provide universal accessibility for all types of public recreation. The Trust Fund board of trustees, a five-member body appointed by the governor, reviews applications and makes recommendations for development projects and land acquisitions. The list of projects is then reviewed and approved by the Legislature, and the appropriation of dollars is signed by the governor. The Trust Fund has, in large part, been responsible for helping to create Michigan's enviable trail system and local and state park systems. It has, to date, awarded more than \$1 billion toward land acquisition and public outdoor recreation development projects in every county throughout Michigan.

The **Mackinac Island State Park Commission** is an autonomous entity with authority to acquire, construct, maintain, and improve property related to the historic Straits of Mackinac. The commission was formed in 1895 and is responsible for all aspects of managing Mackinac State Historic Parks ([www.mackinacparks.com](http://www.mackinacparks.com)). It meets approximately five times a year and is made up of seven members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. Commissioners serve six-year terms.

Additionally, there are several committees and councils that advise the department. These include (but are not limited to):

- Michigan Trails Advisory Council
- Forest Management Advisory Committee
- Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee
- Michigan State Waterways Commission
- Timber Advisory Council
- Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Councils

Learn more about the DNR's many advisory bodies by visiting [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) and selecting Commissions, Boards and Committees.

