

**MICHIGAN
STATE REPORT**
June 1, 2019

Mr. Daniel Eichinger, Director
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
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STAFFING

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has 1,493 permanent employees, more than 1,600 non-career/seasonal employees and a \$438.4 million budget that supports programs for wildlife and fisheries management, state parks and recreation areas, trails, boating programs, conservation and law enforcement, forest management, state lands and minerals, the historical museum and archives.

Daniel Eichinger became the Director of the DNR on January 1, 2019. Shannon Hanna is now serving as the Natural Resources Deputy as of June 1, 2019. Keith Creagh, William O'Neill, and Marc Miller are no longer with the DNR.

FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 BUDGET

The DNR budget is \$438,442,800 for fiscal year (FY) 2019. The General Fund decreased approximately fourteen percent from \$56,944,900 in 2018 to \$49,081,800 in 2019. This decline was due to the removal of many one-time appropriations that were provided in FY 2018. The DNR is funded by state General Fund revenues, federal funds, and a variety of restricted funds. The budget consists of 11 percent General Funds, 19 percent federal funds and 70 percent restricted funds.

Federal funding consists mainly of special purpose categorical grants from various federal agencies, such as the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Federal funds support programs for wildlife and fisheries habitat and management, forest management, recreation and other natural resource programs. Restricted funding is generated from sales of licenses, user fees, and other charges. These funds support wildlife and fisheries programs, operation of Michigan's 103 state parks, harbor and boating access site development, marine safety enforcement and education, snowmobile and off-road vehicle trail repair and development, and operation of Michigan's 135 state forest campgrounds. The DNR also generates timber sales revenue from state lands. Approximately 90 percent of timber sales revenue goes to the Forest Development Fund and is used for the protection and development of our state forests. The other ten percent of timber sales goes toward the Game and Fish Protection Trust Fund.

The DNR budget contains an additional \$2.6 million for disease surveillance in wildlife. This will assist with the continued efforts in Michigan to perform surveillance and monitoring in relation to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and Bovine Tuberculosis. The DNR received a

supplemental appropriation of \$5.3 million for CWD in September 2018. The funds are being used to address outstanding research and communication needs in cooperation with Michigan State University (MSU).

The DNR Law Enforcement Division received approximately \$1 million to add seven conservation officers to increase the enforcement effort of the 2000 and 2007 tribal consent decrees. Parks and Recreation Division received an increase of over \$4 million to enhance state parks services provided such as trash collection, mowing, bathroom cleaning, etc. in response to the increased demand in usage during the shoulder season (prior to Memorial Day and after Labor Day). Infrastructure investments continue in both state parks and state forests.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

Infrastructure investment is dominating legislative discussions. Governor Whitmer proposed an increase in gas taxes to address the backlog of road infrastructure. The DNR would receive two percent of the increase to be used to fund harbors, boating access sites, snowmobile trails, and non-motorized trail and recreational projects. The Senate, House, and Governor will work together to complete the budget in a timely manner and determine if the gas tax will be increased.

NOTEWORTHY DIVISION ISSUES

The DNR tested over 30,000 animals during the past year for CWD. Positive detections continue in Michigan's deer herd in specific areas of the central lower portion of the state. For the first time, a positive deer was identified in the Upper Peninsula this year. The Natural Resources Commission and the DNR continue to work together to address this disease. The DNR will determine its monitoring efforts for the 2019 deer season and will encourage hunters to have their deer tested. Additional research is needed to assist with the management of this disease. As stated earlier, the DNR and MSU are working together to address the outstanding research issues, which may include the development of a live animal rapid test.

The State of Michigan and DNR continue to advocate for the construction and operation of the Brandon Road Lock and Dam to prevent the spread of invasive carp. The appropriation supplemental approved in September 2018 included \$8 million for the future operation of the Brandon Road Lock and Dam.

The DNR was able to purchase a significant inholding of pristine sand dune in one of the most popular state parks. The purchase price was \$12 million and was funded through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and private donors. There is an outstanding portion of the inholding that has yet to be purchased but is currently under an active sand mining permit. The DNR hopes to purchase the additional acres in the very near future.