

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Public Land Management Strategy



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## Introduction

Since before statehood, land in Michigan has been highly desired for its natural resource values – first for furs, and then timber and minerals. Today, Michigan's public lands are prized for those same things, being managed for wildlife habitat, timber, oil and gas exploration, recreational opportunity and mineral development. Michigan's public lands contribute greatly to the state's economy, supporting tens of thousands of jobs, pouring tens of billions of dollars into local businesses and companies and contributing to our high quality of life critical to the state's future economic prosperity. Appendix 5 provides specific information about the state's return from DNR managed public lands.

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and the Public Trust Doctrine, the foundation that drove and still drives the acquisition and management of public lands, both rest on the principle that wildlife and, more broadly, natural resources belong to everyone. Managing wildlife and other natural resources for the common good would not be possible without public lands. In Michigan, the recognition of our quality of life linked to the quality of our resources led to some of the earliest laws protecting our land and waters and even led to constitution requirements requiring the same attention by those who serve in the Michigan legislature.

The road to modern public land management, while long, has always reflected the philosophy and policies of the times, as outlined in the History section of this document. Most of Michigan's timber was cut in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; leaving barren lands that were not productive for agricultural purposes and caused the lands to revert to state ownership. Through sustained investment and management, those lands that no one wanted, grew into a robust state forest system that supports the state's timber industry, provides numerous outdoor recreation opportunities and has restored natural processes. Through time, lands were purchased and sold, boundaries were re-aligned and consolidated and public land management evolved with scientific advances and changes in the public's recreational pursuits.

While the use of the state's land has changed over time, there are certain fundamental that do not change. Wildlife and fish required adequate habitat. Lakes and streams need natural land for recharge areas and to filter pollutants. Forests and other plants need to exist at a certain level of abundance to pollinate, survive and thrive. These fundamentals are the laws of nature and do not respond to trends or public opinion. While the DNR has the responsibility to respond to public demands for recreation and resources, it also has a duty to manage resources in a manner that reflects the realities of nature and intricacies of the interworking's of living systems.

This strategy reflects today's strategic goals for public land management with an eye toward the immediate future, but also remains flexible to adapt to emerging trends and issues with public lands. Adaptability is vital because as history shows – use patterns change, recreation changes and land management will continue to change right along with it.

## **Reason for the Strategy**

In his November 2012 “Ensuring Our Future - Energy and Environment Message,” Michigan Governor Rick Snyder called for a “public land management strategy that protects the character and productive capacity of Michigan’s wide array of natural resource assets for future generations.” He directed the state to become more strategic about the “what” and “why” of ownership of public land. He stated that public lands should protect the unique places that provide habitat or other natural resources. The Governor said the strategy needs to ensure that high-value recreation experiences are available and attractive, and that all of the lands owned and managed by the state further these goals. He tasked the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to complete the strategy by May 2013.

The following strategy meets the objectives identified by Governor Snyder and also is intended to:

- Provide a comprehensive overview of DNR-managed public lands and their contribution to the state, to answer the why, where, what and how questions regarding public lands: why DNR manages public lands, where DNR-managed public lands are located, what are the values associated with managed public lands, and how DNR-managed public lands are utilized.
- Establish collaborations with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) regions so that public lands assist in meeting regional economic prosperity initiatives, resource protection priorities, and job creation goals.
- Address the requirements of Act 240 of 2012 which can be found in the Appendix 1.
- Establish outcomes and metrics for public land ownership in terms of providing outdoor recreation opportunities, conserving cultural and natural resources and supporting land-based economic development.
- Revise strategic objectives and methods for land acquisition and disposal.
- Provide strategic direction on actions that the DNR will implement over the next six years to improve collaboration, provide linkages between public lands and public lands and communities, increase marketing, participate in

integrated strategies, utilize data to drive decisions and focus on the quality of DNR facilities.

- Ensure that future citizens of the state are able to experience healthy lakes, rivers, land and resources.
- Create economic efficiencies in the management of public lands and between the DNR and local units of government.

Protecting natural resources, providing outdoor recreational opportunities and fostering land-based natural resource industries are not missions that the DNR can or should accomplish alone. Strong partnerships and collaborations are imperative to fulfill these responsibilities and sustain both the social and economic opportunities that DNR managed public land provides. Other governmental agencies, non-profits and the private sector own significant amounts of land which also assist in protecting natural resources, providing outdoor recreation and fostering land-based natural resource economies. Michigan's recreational system is provided by the state and federal government, local and regional governments, non-profits and the private sector. Protection of Michigan's natural and cultural resources and natural functions occurs on private as well as public lands. This strategy calls for increased integrated planning among public land managers to clarify roles and responsibilities, grow opportunities, maintain standards for quality across all public facilities and improve marketing.

The strategy does not identify all actions that the DNR will take to meet the outcomes or objectives. For example, the Department has a role in assisting private landowners in managing their lands for wildlife through education, grants or providing technical assistance. While equally important, these roles are not identified in the strategy because they are not dependent on public lands. The strategy also doesn't identify all measurable objectives that are being tracked and that help to achieve the desired outcomes identified by stakeholders as important for protecting natural resources, fostering resource based industries and providing outdoor recreation opportunities.

In his Energy and Environment message, Governor Snyder also encouraged the continued use of an ecosystem management approach in developing the public land ownership and management strategy as a way to balance the demands for outdoor recreation, resource protection and economic opportunity. This strategy employs that ecosystem approach, providing a method of decision making aimed at protecting and enhancing the sustainability, diversity and productivity of Michigan's natural resources. This approach allows the strategy to adapt and respond to changing demands, information or outcomes following its implementation.

Nearly every acre of state land is actively managed for multiple uses and values with consideration for timber production, oil, gas and mineral exploration, fish and wildlife habitat, resource protection, recreation, cultural significance, and public access. In Appendix Two, as an example, there is a map of one state forest compartment which shows all of the activities managed in that area. These multiple uses are often at odds with each other and the resulting conflicts are managed by the DNR utilizing an ecosystem approach to balance the social, ecological and economic demands. The multiple demands for the use of public land will continue to evolve and provide challenges as pressures from current uses increase and new opportunities, such as alternative and renewable energies, emerge.

The desired outcomes, objectives and metrics in this strategy define how the state will manage public lands for the benefit of all Michiganders and for a variety of uses with minimal conflict. It sets priorities for the DNR, its stakeholders and partners who share in protecting our public lands and the natural resources they hold. A foundation is laid for a new way to manage, acquire and dispose of state lands that builds upon past success, yet remains adaptable to the changing needs and uses of DNR-managed public lands. The strategy is divided into three equal parts 1) public land management strategy, 2) a new approach the for the disposal and acquisition of state land and 3) background information about DNR-managed public lands which is important for informing the strategy. The background information also provides stakeholders and policy decision-makers with the information to make informed decisions about the role and future of DNR-managed public lands.

## **History**

From the beginning of statehood, the State of Michigan has been in the real estate business and the owner of substantial acres of land. State policy shaped by public opinion determined how Michigan's public lands were viewed and how much land was retained in state ownership. The current DNR managed public land holdings -- state parks and recreation areas, boating access sites, historic sites, game and wildlife areas and state forests -- were acquired through a deliberative process that reflected state policy and public opinion at the time. Early state policy supported the sale of publicly-held land for settlement and development, then changed to support the sale of land for extraction, and then evolved to a policy of owning and managing public lands for public benefits.

In 1837, when the state was admitted to the Union, the public land management role of the state was to sell land for settlement and to support the development of government functions. Sold lands went through several cycles of reversion as the land's resources cleared of their timber resources and subsequent attempts at agriculture of the cleared lands failed.

From the 1890s through the 1930s, the state underwent a series of economic downturns that caused lands to return to the state for non-payment of taxes -- over 116 million acres (the land reverted multiple times) in a 22-year period. In an effort to stop this cycle of tax delinquencies, the Legislature created the State Forestry Commission in 1899 and began to set aside forest reserves. Further expansion of the state forests occurred with the creation of the Public Domain Commission in 1909. In 1909 legislative action required the state to reserve the mineral rights on all lands sold or homesteaded, and in 1911, the Legislature provided the state with the authority to exchange lands to consolidate ownership.

The exploitation of land and resources triggered the rise of the conservation movement, and state policy then changed to a focus on wise allocation of land, rather than sale for short-term gain. Various commissions including the Public Lands and Fisheries (1873); Forestry (1899) and Parks (1919) were created to manage resources and to stop tax reversions. The commissions were eliminated and their functions were merged into the newly created Department of Conservation in 1921. One of the first rulings of the new Conservation Commission was that no state lands bordering upon the Great Lakes or any inland lake were to be sold and were to be held for the "enjoyment of the people."

Throughout its tenure, the Department of Conservation set forth a strategy to begin managing state land utilizing a co-management approach whereby the Game and Forestry Division could not conduct land management practices with concurrence from the other division. This approach comprised very similar facets to the current concept of ecosystem management. Both of these strategies continue to be the cornerstone of DNR public land management.

In 1922, the Michigan Land Economic Survey was created to survey the lands in northern Michigan to determine their value for agriculture or whether they were more suitable for recreation, other public uses or should be sold. The USDA (Land Use Planning Program) also had a land planning effort which lasted until the 1950s. This planning effort was also intended to stop the tax delinquency cycle.

By 1938, Land Use Planning Committees were organized for each county in the state. They were comprised of some 1,700 local, county, township and school officials who reviewed all state land holdings, including tax reverted lands, and made recommendations for their future. Recommendations included retaining the land in public ownership (state or local) or selling to private land owners.

As a result of this review, by 1950, over 1.3 million acres were sold and 130,000 acres were turned over to private ownership. The remaining acres were added to the state forest, wildlife areas or state park systems.

In addition to tax reverted property, over 26 percent of the DNR public managed lands were purchased with restricted funds for their natural resource values. These restricted funds generally require that the land continue to be managed for the purpose that it was purchased.

There were two extensive reviews of Michigan's public land policy in 1984 and again in 1996. The Report of The Task Force on Public Lands Policy was presented to Governor James Blanchard in 1984 and provided a series of 24 recommendations regarding the state's public land. The primary point of this report was that the state needed to consolidate its ownership of land and "did not find a need for major changes to land management practices and philosophies." In 1996, the Senate Select Committee on Public Land Ownership, Purchase and Management also conducted an extensive study of the DNR's land acquisition policy as well as other state land-holding agencies. The select committee proposed seven "principle changes" in the state's land acquisition policy including, greater flexibility in state programs to allow for shifts in land policy; adopt new attitudes and incentives to work with the private sector and that the legislature should reaffirm its role as the chief conservator of the state's natural assets.

In 2003, in response to Natural Resources Commission Policy 2627 of 2003 regarding DNR land holdings, the department initiated a thorough review of state land ownership. This project, known as the DNR Land Ownership Strategy, implemented a four-phase strategy to not only review the current DNR land ownership pattern, but to also evaluate those lands from a natural resources perspective and dispose of those parcels that do not contribute to the overall mission of the DNR. The purpose of the land ownership review was to continue the on-going effort to consolidate State land ownership for a variety of economic, outdoor recreation and other natural resource benefits and land management efficiencies by reducing trespass issues, safety zone encroachments and the need to monitor and survey public/private boundary lines. A summary of this effort is in Appendix One.

## State Land Facts

### Land Ownership

From 1921 to 2012 the DNR:

- Disposed of 2.5 million acres of land.
- Gave nearly 150,000 acres of land to local governments.
- Was gifted almost 100,000 acres of land.

During the last five years, the DNR:

- Expanded its land ownership base by only 0.34%.
- Sold 13,926 acres.

Land acquisition activities over the past decade are at record low levels.

Fifty-six percent of DNR managed parcels in the Upper Peninsula are classified as wetlands.

### Timber

- By providing a steady flow of timber to the market, the State Forest system is a key participant in the \$14 billion forest industry, which directly employs 26,000 people.
- In 2012, DNR timber sales resulted in 800,000 cords of wood being harvested for the market.
- The State Forest system has received dual certification from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). This benefits the people of the State by improving the global market competitiveness of Michigan's certified timber products, resulting in improved economic vitality of Michigan's rural, timber dependent communities.
- DNR managed lands are much more likely to be managed for timber than non-industrial private forestlands, which comprise 43% of Michigan's forestlands.
- 11% of Michigan's forestlands are enrolled in the Commercial Forest Program, a program which provides property tax breaks to private landowners in return for them managing for timber production while providing public access for hunting, fishing and trapping.

## Energy

- Michigan has 1.1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas storage capacity, the greatest volume of any state. The DNR leases 13% of the acres that are involved in this activity. This results in a lower cost, and more predictable, year around, natural gas supply for Michigan's citizens and industry.
- Currently, 50% of State-owned mineral rights in the Lower Peninsula are leased.

## Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

- In 2012, the State Parks hosted 1 million camp nights.
- The DNR manages more than 1,000 boat launches and more than 80 harbors, in support of the State's \$4 billion boating industry.
- Michigan has nearly 2,623 miles of rail-trail on the ground and available for use.

## Wildlife

- The State has 9.9 million acres of land that are open to the public for hunting. The DNR managed lands provide nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  of these acres.
- Hunters provide an estimated \$1.3 billion annually to Michigan's economy.

## Fisheries

- Approximately 1.4 million Michigan residents and 347,000 nonresidents fished in Michigan in 2011, contributing an estimated \$4.4 billion to Michigan's economy and supporting 38,000 jobs.

## Reasons for Public Land Ownership

To those who ride snowmobiles, hunt ducks, produce various forest products, or fish the Great Lakes, the answer to “why” the DNR owns and manages public lands for the people of the state is obvious. DNR owns and manages public lands to provide

citizens and visitors with opportunities to recreate, support local and rural economies and protect unique places.

*“The abundance of public land in Michigan has a huge impact on our business. I’ve been in a lot of other states, and Michigan is blessed with public lands, especially for those that don’t have access to private land. We notice an increase in traffic traveling north for firearm deer season opening day. The result is an increase of traffic going through our stores in Clare and Gaylord. And it’s not just hunting and fishing – public lands also contribute to the sales of equipment for camping and canoeing.” – Jeff Poet, president, Jay’s Sporting Goods*

Part One defines the reason why the state owns public lands, the desired outcomes from managing those lands for recreation, supporting land-based industries and protecting natural and cultural features. It also identifies the metrics that will be used by the DNR and stakeholders to determine if desired outcomes

are being met. Utilizing metrics to measure program progress is evolving in the DNR and the identified metrics should be expected to also evolve as additional data is collected. This part begins to answer the question of “how” the state manages land by identifying measurable objectives that are already guiding the work of the DNR. The objectives are products of planning efforts such as the State Forest Plan, Fisheries Division strategic plan “Charting the Course”, the Wildlife Division’s Guiding Principles and Strategies (GPS), Parks and Recreation Division’s Strategic Plan, Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Committee’s draft Comprehensive Trail Plan, ORV Strategy Plan and the Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel’s work.

## Part One

### Strategy

#### **Goal 1: Ensure Recreational Opportunities to Enjoy and Appreciate Michigan's Natural and Cultural Resources.**

Michigan citizens and visitors have the opportunity to enjoy a vast array of recreation activities and facilities ranging from the traditional, such as camping, hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling to new and emerging, like white-water paddling, disc golf and trail running. Many of these opportunities are found in state- managed facilities including the 101 state parks and recreation areas, 3.9 million acres of state forests 110 state game and wildlife areas, more than 1000 public water access sites and over 12,000 miles of trails. Michigan's many outdoor recreational activities also offer opportunities to connect to cultural resources, for example along trails and at lake and river access points, creating a sense of discovery that enriches the recreational experience.

Collaborations play an important role in fulfilling recreationists' desires for multiple and varied opportunities. For example, the state's renowned trail system is provided by state, federal, regional and local units as well as the private and non-profit sectors. Collaborations between the private and public sectors are also important in providing recreational opportunities. Private guides utilize state land for hunting or angling opportunities. The private sector provides the amenities that enrich a snowmobile trip or a deer camp experience.

For many small businesses throughout Michigan, proximity to DNR-managed public lands has a direct impact on their bottom line. Bob and Kurt Eppley, the owners of Alpine Cycles in Port Huron, next to the 37-mile Bridge to Bay Trail, have noticed a steady increase in sales of road and mountain bikes, and cyclists coming in for repairs – both residents and tourists. Katherine Weaver, owner of Weavers Market on Harsens Island, definitely notices the impact of waterfowl hunters coming to the island's DNR St. Clair Flats Wildlife Area to hunt.

"Without waterfowl hunters, business would die after September," Weaver said. "I wish there were more (hunters)! We need hunters to hold us over once the summer people leave the island. (Hunters ensure) October to December is great for business."

Because Michiganders and visitors to the state love to play outdoors, there is an increasing demand for more facilities, more trails, bigger campsites and new opportunities. Often these needs conflict with existing uses whether it is an existing trail, timber management, oil and gas activity or natural resource protection. The

DNR and its partners must manage these conflicts, sometimes by limiting growth or moving facilities to other areas of the state.

### **Desired outcomes for recreation opportunities**

- Citizens and tourists experience Michigan's incredible natural and cultural resources through diverse, adaptable and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Michigan's population has the opportunity to be physically active through outdoor recreation opportunities.
- The recreational system in the state is planned, developed and managed collaboratively among all recreational providers.

### **Metric for access to DNR-managed public lands**

*Increase by five percent citizen satisfaction with access to DNR-managed public lands.*

The Department of Natural Resources will annually conduct a survey of Michigan citizens to measure their use and enjoyment of Michigan's outdoor recreation resources. The baseline survey was conducted in 2012 to inform the 2013-2017 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Seventy-nine percent of the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the amount of outdoor recreation in Michigan.

### **Measurable objectives regarding access to DNR-managed public lands**

- Completion of a road plan that ensures motorized and non-motorized access to public land. (Act 240, 2012)
- Provide access within 15 miles to a minimum of 500-acre blocks of public lands that provide dispersed recreation activities.(SCORP, Wildlife GPS, State Forest Management Plan)
- Increase by 25 percent the amount of land available for dispersed public recreation in southern Michigan with emphasis in areas with low per capita access. (Request of Public Land Management Strategy Advisory Committee (PLMSAC)
- Ensure that 50% of knowledge-based workforce resides within five miles of public lands. (PLMSAC)

## **Metric for access to the water**

*Percent of inland lakes and the Great Lakes (and connecting waters) with access that meet objectives.*

Access to Michigan's water has always been a state priority. This metric reflects the land and water access measurable objectives that are reflected in the strategic plan of the Parks and Recreation Division and in the goals for land and river access established by the Fisheries Division.

### **Measurable objectives for access to water**

- Provide public access on all lakes over 100 acres.(PRD Strategic Plan)
- Provide boating access on all lakes over 500 acres.
- Provide a safe harbor of refuge system on the Great Lakes with one harbor every 30 miles. (PDR Strategic Plan)
- Provide public access every six miles on the Great Lakes.(PLMSAC request)
- Provide access every mile on the connecting channels from Lake Huron to Lake Erie.(PLMSAC request)
- Complete a database and maps of existing access points on rivers identified as priorities by Fisheries Division and acquire identified gaps in access.
- Provide access to 25 percent of smaller lakes (less than 100 acres in size) that have significant recreational opportunity as identified by Fisheries Division.

*"Our customers use state land to access local lakes and the Kalamazoo River, and we often send customers looking for good hiking experiences out to Allegan State Game Area." – **Skip Lee, owner of Lee's Adventure Sports in Portage***

## **Metric for Trails**

*Completion of ten priority connections as identified by the Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council (MSTAC).*

The Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council endorsed an action item in their Comprehensive Trail Plan to identify priority trail connections that should be completed in the next six years.

## Measurable objectives for trails

- Designate public water trails that have appropriate signage, amenities and promotion on 30 percent of Michigan's navigable waters, five connected lake systems, and 75 percent of the Great Lakes and connecting channels shoreline. (Draft Comprehensive Trail Plan (DCTP))
- Provide a well-maintained, interconnected system of multi-use trails that are within five miles of 90 percent of Michigan's citizens. (DCTP)
- Develop critical linkages to complete five Great Lake lake-to-lake linear trails. (DCTP)
- Develop critical linkages to complete a north-south hiking trail system from Belle Isle to Wisconsin. (Governor Snyder)
- Develop an interconnected snowmobile trail system on secure permanent easements.(DCTP)
- Connect looped equestrian trails with other trails to create an interconnected equestrian system beginning by linking existing equestrian trails in southeast Michigan. (DCTP)
- Provide safe and connected off-road vehicle (ORV) opportunities. (ORV Strategic Plan)
- Develop off-road bike connections to the state's extensive off-road multi-use recreation trail network to create better access for communities, neighborhoods and families. (DCTP)
- Complete the 400 miles of the 1,150 mile North Country National Scenic Trail not yet completed within the state. (DCTP)

*“We use state land as put-in and take-out points for our boats. We welcome (the state) and need them to run our fishing guide business.” – Jeff Gardiner, owner, Old Au Sable Fly Shop in Grayling*

## Metric for urban recreation

*Establish five signature urban parks with partners.*

This metric is a priority action identified in The Future of Michigan's Parks and Outdoor Recreation: A Report to Governor Rick Snyder, Sept. 23, 2012 by the Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel.

## **Measurable objectives for urban recreation**

- Use parks and recreation as a key tool for revitalizing Michigan's core urban areas by establishing with partners, five signature parks and integrating green infrastructure into Michigan's urban redesign and redevelopment efforts.

## **Metric for diversity of recreational offerings**

*Percent of citizen satisfaction with diversity of recreation opportunities provided on DNR-managed public lands.*

The Department of Natural Resources will annually conduct a survey of Michigan citizens to measure their use and enjoyment of Michigan's outdoor recreation resources. The baseline survey of Michigan residents was conducted in 2012 to inform the 2013-2017 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Seventy-nine percent of the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the amount of outdoor recreation in Michigan.

## **Goal 2: Foster the Growth and Stability of Michigan's Land-Based Natural and Cultural Resources Economies.**

DNR-managed public lands play a critical role in the state's land-based industries and the state's rural economies. State forest lands provide more than 20 percent of the timber that supports Michigan's \$14 billion timber economy. It is an industry that wants to grow, said Chad Bisballe of Bisballe Forest Products in Lake City.

"State land is important to the viability of our forest product company. More land would help in bringing more wood to market—as long as the land does not get used for set aside areas or other restrictions when it does not warrant it."-- Bisballe said.

Governor Snyder recently recognized the potential for expansion and the economic advantage that Michigan's natural gas underground storage industry provides to the state. Access to state land for natural gas exploration is a definite business advantage, said Glen W. Merrill, Jr., senior land representative for ANR Pipeline Company in Big Rapids.

"The value of state land leases encourages the development of critical energy infrastructure benefiting Michigan's energy users and the energy industry providing the service. Access to state land reduces the uncertainty and delay the energy projects would have if faced with having to negotiate with many individual land owners for easement rights," Merrill noted.

Michigan's rich and varied natural resources and recreational opportunities also support the state's thriving tourism industry. Half of the state's 6,200 miles of snowmobile trail are located on state land, and provide a steady flow of winter visitors to northern Michigan communities. The two weeks of firearm deer season are the financially critical in many rural areas, when hunters flood restaurants, bars, hotels and grocery stores. Several state parks host over a million visitors a year who spend time and money in surrounding communities, and in 2012, state parks exceeded one million camp nights. Michigan has world-class trout streams and visitors access these streams through access sites developed and managed by the DNR. Communities like Vanderbilt were founded during the lumber era and now depend on the state-owned North Central State Trail and the Pigeon River Country State Forest for its economic prosperity. Emmet County is experiencing increased tourism because of their "dark sky" area designation, bringing in astronomy enthusiasts to have clear night views of stars, constellations, meteor showers, lunar eclipses and other celestial observations.

In Luce County, businesses know the value of being close to DNR-managed public lands and the recreation amenities they support, said Jomay Bomber, director of the Newberry Area Chamber of Commerce.

"Tourism is huge for Luce County and our biggest attractions are the natural resources. The #1 draw to this area is Tahquamenon Falls State Park. These visitors drive the local restaurant and hotel businesses. Because so many people visit the park, it has a big impact on the tourism in the area," Bomber said. "The public land also draws people to the area for hunting, fishing and trail use, which is huge. I would estimate that at least 60 percent of the businesses in the county are tied to tourism. This does not include other businesses impacted by public lands, such as the logging industry."

The economic benefits of public lands are well understood in western states. According to *West is Best: How Public Lands in the West Create a Competitive Economic Advantage* "Western non-metropolitan counties with more than 30 percent of the county's land base in federal protected status such as national parks, monuments, wilderness, and other similar designations increased jobs by 345 percent over the last 40 years. By comparison, similar counties with no protected federal public lands increased employment by 83 percent". Similar to western states, Michigan has the natural resource assets to create a competitive economic advantage.

*"(State land) is very valuable to our business, during hunting season, most of the campers who stay at Apple Creek use state land." – **Mary Ann Brennan, owner of Apple Creek Campground and RV Park in Grass Lake***

## Desired outcomes for natural resource based industries

- Outdoor recreation opportunities that enhance and retain Michigan's knowledge-based economy and local and regional economies.
- Thriving and sustainable forest products industries that support communities by providing jobs, products and diverse and resilient forests.
- Experiencing "Pure Michigan" is the first choice of travelers worldwide because of its integrated and renowned outdoor opportunities, vibrant cities and towns and amazing amenities.
- Strong and sustainable oil and gas industries that promote national security; maximize production opportunities and minimize adverse impacts.
- Extraction of a non-renewable resource on DNR-managed public lands provides sustainable funding for investments in other non-renewable resources.
- Michigan's unique geology for natural gas storage stabilizes energy costs and ensures natural gas supply.
- Strong metallic and nonmetallic mineral industries that leverage unique geological opportunities; minimize adverse resource impacts and provide sustained prosperity to local economies.
- Renewable energy industry becomes competitive by capitalizing on Michigan's unique geology.
- Vibrant fisheries and wildlife-based industry that promotes Michigan's world class fisheries and wildlife opportunities both game and non-game and sustains local economies.

*"Our state forest land base is a critical aspect of the raw material supply chain here in Michigan and was part of the decision to start our O.S.B. business here over 30 years ago."* — **Todd Johnson, Forestry Services Manager, Weyerhaeuser NR Company**

### Metric for forest products industry

*Increase career-related forest products jobs by 10 percent.*

This is a goal established for the forest products industry and endorsed at the Governor's Forest Products Summit.

## **Measurable objectives for forest products industry**

- Increase the exports of value-added forest products from the state by 50 percent. (Timber Advisory Council)
- Grow timber economy from \$14 to \$20 billion. (Timber Advisory Council)

## **Metric for mineral management**

*Increase the number of acres leased for mineral production and underground natural gas storage by 10 percent.*

While the oil and gas and mineral industries have not established measurable objectives for the growth of their industries, the DNR is interested in supporting this important natural resource industry as measured by increasing the number of acres of state land leased for mineral production, while still protecting the State's other natural resource values.

## **Measurable objectives for mineral management**

- Hold two oil and gas lease auctions a year to make state leasable lands available for oil and gas production as nominated by the oil and gas industry.

## **Metric for tourism**

*Increase the number of tourists to Michigan by 10 percent.*

A recent article in Bridge Magazine indicated that six of the top 10 tourist attractions in Michigan are managed by the DNR (Holland, Grand Haven, Warren Dunes, and Muskegon State Parks, Island Lake Recreation Area and Mackinac Island) Public lands are also vital for trails of all kinds from snowmobile to mountain bike. The DNR is a partner with Pure Michigan. All of these factors reflect the important role that DNR-managed public lands play in Michigan's tourism industry and contribute to a growing tourism sector.

## **Measurable objectives for tourism**

- Three percent increase in tourism at historic parks. (Michigan Historical Center)
- Three percent increase in divers using underwater preserves. (Michigan Historical Center)
- Increase non-resident state park passes to 275,000. (DNR Scorecard)
- Increase overnight stays at marinas by three percent.

- Increase the number of anglers that purchase a fishing license for the first time from 245,790 to 260,000. (DNR Scorecard)
- The number of new hunters who purchase a hunting license increases from 99,361 to 110,000 each year. (DNR Scorecard).
- Increase participation in non-consumptive wildlife-based outdoor recreation by 10 percent (WLD GPS).
- Implement in partnership with Pure Michigan, a marketing strategy that highlights Michigan's unique natural assets.

### **Goal 3: Protect Natural Functions and Natural and Cultural Resources.**

DNR-managed public lands hold significant natural and cultural resources that when considered as a whole encompass what makes Michigan a special place. Nestled in the Great Lakes, carpeted with a variety of ecosystems, Michigan is home to an enormous variety of wildlife (for example, 40% of the birds in North America spend part of the year in the Upper Peninsula) and fish species, diverse forest systems and numerous outdoor recreation opportunities that provide a means for people to connect with the natural world. Receding glaciers left Michigan with unique geological features, including a legacy of world class trout streams supporting by ever-flowing cold groundwater and thousands of lakes. Some of these, like the big northern Michigan lakes, are found nowhere else in the world. The quality of our Great Lakes depends on natural systems, like coastal wetlands and healthy rivers that flow into the Great Lakes. Cultural resources -- archaeological sites, landscapes shaped by human activity and standing structures -- all reflect the unique ways that people have interacted with Michigan's natural resources and made the places of Michigan their own. The natural beauty of Michigan is built upon its natural resources, drawing visitors from around the world to experience it. Providing ample access to the state's natural resources in turn supports thousands of small businesses.

"As a small business owner and a commercial fishing guide, it is extremely valuable to utilize state land access sites and rivers. In my business, standing in a state-owned river is a must and showing customers the closest access site is always helpful," said John Karakashian, a fishing guide with Baldwin Bait & Tackle, who works with customers on the Pere Marquette and Muskegon rivers. "More access and availability of state land opens up recreational opportunities to residents and visitors. Through those opportunities more licenses will be sold to outdoor users. A reduction in access sites will limit users and reduce revenue -- not to mention reduce tourist spending throughout the state."

Protecting both natural and cultural resources and natural systems is the state's responsibility as recognized in the Michigan Constitution. Degradation or loss of public land directly impacts many aspects of the state's economy – forest products, tourism, oil and gas production, mineral development and countless small businesses that rely on outdoor recreation pursuits. DNR-managed public lands support Michigan's economy in many ways, and protecting the natural and cultural resources on those lands ensures that continued contribution to the state's economy and to the sustainable quality of life for the citizens of the state.

### **Desired outcomes for protecting natural functions and natural and cultural resources**

- Future generations have an opportunity to experience in context Michigan's natural and cultural resources.
- Diversity of resilient cover types and natural communities to sustain healthy ecosystems and species populations for future generations and economic prosperity.
- The public understands the economic and ecological benefits of natural functions (example includes gene flow, nutrient cycling and natural disturbance).
- Michigan's identity as the Great Lake state is sustained.

### **Metric for cover types and wildlife population goals**

*Double the number of habitat projects accomplished with partners.*

Habitat projects-completed by partners are critical to the long-term health of the habitat on DNR managed state land. One of the outcomes from the passage of the proposed hunting and fishing license package will be additional grant dollars directed to habitat improvement projects by partners.

***Tony Snyder, Michigan State Chapter president of the National Wild Turkey Federation***

*(NWTF), appreciates the value of Michigan's public lands especially for mentoring and youth recruitment opportunities. The ability to "go over to the state lands" is critical for rural or urban residents and out-of-state tourists who lack access to private land for hunting, hiking, or just spending time outdoors, Snyder says. NWTF's national initiative Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt is a bold effort to save 4 million acres of upland habitat and create 1.5 million new hunters. The initiative strives to make it easier to find new places to hunt by creating 500,000 acres of new public land.*

## **Measurable objectives for cover types and wildlife population goals**

- Achieve habitat management goals for grassland, mesic conifer, aspen cover types and wetlands to assist in achieving the goals as stated in the Upper Mississippi & Great Lakes Region Joint Venture, Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative, American Woodcock Conservation Plan and North American Waterfowl Management Plan.
- Achieve population goals for state and federally- listed non-game species as defined in recovery plans including for the Karner Blue Butterfly, Kirkland's Warbler and Piping Plover.
- Double the number of acres involved in habitat partnership projects in order to meet the habitat goals identified in the Wildlife Division's GPS, Fisheries Division 2013-2017 *Charting the Course* Strategic Plan and specific species plans.

## **Metric for diversity**

*Prevent corrective action requests regarding biodiversity management associated with forest certification audits.*

Annual audits are conducted on state-managed forests to ensure that the state forests are managed to meet the requirements of forest certification. One of the tenets of forest certification is that maintaining diversity must be considered when conducting forest management practices and that failure to do so might cause a corrective action request forcing the DNR to address the problem.

## **Measurable objectives for diversity**

- *Maintain or enhance quality of natural communities ranked A or B under standards nationally recognized and applied in each state.*

## **Metric for protection of cultural resources**

*Complete cultural features spatial comprehensive database*

To advance the protection of Michigan's cultural resources, a comprehensive database of known cultural features needs to be completed on state land. This metric reflects an important first step in meeting the outcome of future generations having an opportunity to experience, in context, Michigan's natural and cultural resources.

## Measurable objectives for cultural protection

- Develop a protection strategy for 10 critical natural and culturally significant rare and unique places (Parks and Recreation Division Strategic Plan and Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on State Parks and Outdoor Recreation).
- Protect and conserve all significant natural and cultural features within parks, forests and other DNR managed state lands (Parks and Recreation Division Strategic Plan and Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on State Parks and Outdoor Recreation).
- Develop a comprehensive database of known cultural features on state land.

## Metric for protection of aquatic resources

*The number of acres of land or miles of corridors protected for each aquatic habitat classification.*

Healthy aquatic habitats depend on the use of the land and how water travels through the landscape. Priority watersheds will be collaboratively protected through Department and partnership initiatives to maintain and restore aquatic habitats and their connectivity.

## Measurable objectives for protection of aquatic resources

- Develop a strategy using current GIS-based classification systems to protect represented river, lake, and Great Lakes coastal habitats in each region by 2015.
- Use Natural River designations (Part 305 of PA 451) to protect and enhance a variety of values on Michigan's river systems. Values include free-flowing condition, recreation, ecologic, scenic, historic, and fish and wildlife.

*"We depend on state land for our survival. We cater almost entirely to folks who enjoy the outdoors – fly-fishers, hunters, hikers, bird watchers, mountain bikers. All these pursuits, so popular among our customers, depend on public lands. Access to state lands offered by this area of Michigan is one of the main attractions of a trip 'Up North.'" –Josh Greenberg, owner of Gates Au Sable Lodge in Grayling*

## Part Two

### **Looking to the Future – How Will We Look Different, What Actions Will We Take, What DNR-Managed Lands Plans Hold**

In the immediate future, the DNR will evolve as it becomes a more data-driven state agency, relying on economic impact analyses of DNR-managed public lands, gap analyses and more consistent citizen input through annual surveys. The DNR also will engage more with local and regional units of government to implement land strategy reflective of regional economic initiatives. A new land acquisition and disposal approach that refocuses on priority inholdings and reducing existing boundaries also has been developed for this land management strategy.

State land ownership can have a significant impact on local economies, recreational opportunities, local tax base and future economic growth potential. Moving forward, there will be improved collaboration through a more interactive relationship between the DNR and local units of government regarding land ownership issues.

### **How the DNR Will Refocus Public Lands Ownership**

In answer to the question “what” public lands should the DNR manage, the following section describes the process the DNR will utilize going forward to balance the state’s portfolio of public lands.

The DNR continuously engages in acquisition, exchanges or disposals of land to balance the Department’s public land ownership to meet its diverse mission. To guide the Department’s public land ownership, a strategy is used for both acquisitions and disposal of state lands. The intent of this new approach is to

*“Chippewa Landing is a canoe livery/campground on the Manistee River that has been in business for 50+ years. For a majority of that time, the business has been located on privately-owned lands and operated under a lease with the landowners. Recently the landowners decided that they wanted to sell their property, putting the future of Chippewa Landing at risk. The State of Michigan acquired this property and in an effort to ensure continued public access to this stretch of the Manistee River, has continued the lease of the Chippewa Landing canoe livery and campground. In doing so, the future of this business is more secure. Chippewa Landing is dependent upon the State of Michigan ownership. This property is a very valuable asset to the State because without it, good public access for use of this stretch of the river would be nil. This is a unique property and I’m glad that the State owns it.” – Rick Walsh, owner, Chippewa Landing in Manton*

refocus ownership to priority areas; adapt to changing demands, and to move toward greater efficiency and effectiveness in land management.

Historically, the Department has focused on land consolidation and the purchase of high value resource and recreation lands. The new strategic direction will do the following:

- Initiate a review process for potential disposal of 240,000 acres of public lands that are less than 200 acres and separated from other DNR land holdings, because of the shape of boundaries are difficult to manage, or because public access is not provided..
- Shrink boundaries to reflect current state owned properties and high priority inholdings within those boundaries. In doing so, the acquisition interest of the DNR is sharply focused.
- Use revenues from the sale of this surplus land to acquire lands in high priority areas, including near urban centers, for high resource value properties, trail development or to link recreation facilities.
- Entertain requests for DNR-managed land to support other state economic development needs such as agriculture.

The new strategic direction will be implemented in a four-phase approach to review the current DNR public land ownership pattern, evaluate those lands from a natural resources perspective and dispose of those parcels deemed surplus.

### **Phase 1: Identify State Lands for Disposal**

The Department has mapped all lands that are either 200 acres or less or because of the shape of the state ownership boundary are considered “unconsolidated”. These total approximately 240,000 acres. These acres will be reviewed by the DNR on a county by county basis utilizing criteria approved by the Department’s management team. These criteria may vary by region and will recognize the metrics identified in this plan. Based upon the criteria, parcels will be placed into one of three categories: dispose, offer to a local unit of government or alternative conservation owner or retain in state ownership. The public will have an opportunity to review and comment on lands identified for disposal.

### **Phase 2: Focused Boundaries**

Once the review has been completed, the DNR will establish smaller project boundaries for state forest, state game areas, state wildlife areas, state recreation areas, state parks and public boating access sites. This will serve to remove a significant number of private inholdings within the boundaries.

### **Phase 3: Disposal of Identified Lands**

Lands identified and approved for disposal, to a unit of government, alternate conservation owner or to the general public will be made available for purchase or exchange. The DNR will entertain requests for sale/exchange of state land for other state economic development priorities.

### **Phase 4: Maintain an Up-to-Date Public Land Base**

In compliance with Act 240 of 2012, after six years the DNR and its partners will review the strategy for changing land ownership and management priorities.

### **Natural Resource and Land Management Benefits**

The land ownership strategy is critical for increasing efficiencies in state land management. The pattern and distribution of ownership and land use greatly impacts the management of natural resources, land management options, and ecological function and processes. This new strategic direction is intended to significantly reduce staff time spent on land management issues, while extending natural resource protections and high quality opportunities for public outdoor recreation. Consolidated lands also provide benefits to the public including reducing the risk of trespass on to private lands, avoiding safety zone violations and enhancing resource management. The benefits include:

- Prevent habitat fragmentation and habitat loss;
- Increase public recreational opportunities on contiguous blocks of DNR-managed public lands;
- Increase timber management efficiency;
- Prevent illegal encroachment on DNR-managed public lands;
- Prevent loss of hunting lands due to safety zone requirements;
- Reduce public/private land recreational use conflicts.

### **Acquisition**

Strategic acquisition of land in priority areas will help achieve the DNR's mission and desired outcomes by meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- Acquire new recreational opportunities especially in southern Michigan and near urban population centers;
- Consolidate existing state lands within focused consolidation boundaries;
- Provide new or additional public access to surface waters or other state lands;

- Contain high natural resource or significant outdoor recreation values;
- Contribute to existing initiatives or plans such as trail corridor acquisition.

## **Disposal**

An important component of this new strategic direction is to make effective use of those lands that are determined to be surplus to program needs. These parcels may be recommended for sale at a competitive auction, sold directly to private buyers, exchanged or transferred to other land managers. Conveyance of these parcels may be conducted in a manner that 1) provides for their continued protection where warranted; and, 2) provides a means to purchase or exchange for more desirable replacement lands.

Review of unconsolidated parcels involves evaluation by all DNR land administering divisions and the public utilizing criteria approved by the DNR's management team that reflects a holistic resource management approach. Evaluation criteria may include the following:

- Pertinence to the Department's mission and desired outcomes;
- Presence or absence of significant ecological features, recreation potential or regional economic opportunities.
- Other relevant natural resource, public recreation, and cultural resource values;
- An exchange or sale of these lands will result in an improvement in the location or pattern of state ownership and will provide for greater natural resource, ecological or outdoor recreation values.

## **Key Actions in the Next Six Years**

Refocusing ownership, measuring progress toward meeting desired outcomes and implementing measurable objectives will precipitate significant change in the management of the DNR. The following informs DNR stakeholders, employees and the public what changes they should expect over and above the implementation of the measurable objectives identified in the plan over the next six years as a result of the Public Land Management Strategy.

## Become Data Driven

Investment by the DNR in understanding user needs and interests is lacking. To ensure that public lands are meeting the needs of Michigan's citizens, visitors and businesses, the DNR will do the following:

1. Complete an annual citizen survey to understand outdoor recreation interests, needs, satisfaction and emerging trends.
2. Complete a gap analysis with partner organizations of recreation assets, high quality rare or representative natural areas and other culturally significant assets to ensure that Michigan's portfolio of public lands is meeting the strategy and to focus on priority acquisitions.
3. Conduct regular analysis of recreational trends to determine changing facility needs.
4. Complete an analysis of the economic value of state lands and products from those lands. This analysis could be used by local and regional economic development initiatives as well as the DNR to make investment decisions.
5. Understand the recreation and resource drivers for fostering a knowledge-based economy and target investments to those drivers.
6. Continue to improve the use of metrics and indicators to measure progress toward meeting desired outcomes.

## Focus Regionally

Integrated planning strategies for public land with local units of government and more collaboration with stakeholders will be key to managing public lands in the immediate future. The DNR must become a more active player in regional planning initiatives due to the tremendous economic asset we bring to the table – the state's public lands. The DNR intends to focus regionally in these ways:

1. Use state outdoor recreation facilities to help regions establish their own unique sense of place by "understanding, differentiating and marketing their unique assets often found on state lands."
2. Participate in regional economic prosperity initiatives and environmental planning to help integrate public land management and DNR expertise into regional priorities.
3. Pilot two regional collaborative outdoor recreation planning initiatives as called for in the SCORP.
4. Improve communication and relationships with local units of government through an intentional process of initiating contacts and meetings to discuss land ownership issues and to provide technical expertise that is unique to DNR staff.
5. State parks and recreation areas will increase their collaboration with adjoining local communities by hosting events, and providing information about surrounding DNR public recreation amenities.

*"This area is known for the public land and natural resources and it is what draws people to the area. At least 80 percent (and likely more) of the area businesses are almost solely dependent upon the public land and natural resources/tourism in the area for their survival. The natural resources in this area are 100 percent of the tourism draw. Due to that, and the fact that this area is known for the State land, the Chamber of Commerce recently changed our tag line to 'Pure Water....Pure Trails...Pure North' since that better embodies what brings people to this area to spend their time and money." – Dawn Bodnar, executive director, Indian River Chamber of Commerce*

## **Link Facilities**

The desire to have linked recreation facilities is an emerging trend in current research and collaborative projects. The SCORP, the Michigan Snowmobile and Trail Advisory Committee Draft Comprehensive Trail Plan and the Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel report to the Governor all call for linking recreation facilities, identifying critical trail connections and focusing on completing those priority linkages. The Blue Ribbon Panel also calls for programming, stewardship and volunteer opportunities to connect people to their outdoor "places." To link facilities and people with the outdoors, the DNR will:

1. Expand and adapt based upon survey results Recreation 101 programming, which teaches new outdoor skills to novices, both in state parks and with partner organizations to grow the public's use of outdoor recreation offerings and appreciation of resource stewardship.
2. Establish a trails-oriented economic development program to link communities with DNR managed trails. Lessons learned from this initiative will be applied to linking other department facilities with surrounding communities.
3. Establish a pilot project to identify priorities associated with a river corridor, measures needed to protect the key values of that corridor and identify collaborators' responsibilities to addressing those measures. Lessons learned from the pilot project will be applied to other key river corridors.
4. Improve signage on all department managed facilities that links those facilities to surrounding communities.

## **Participate in Integrated Planning**

The SCORP calls for improved collaboration and cooperation between all outdoor recreation providers to ensure that Michigan's recreation system meets the needs and desires of its residents. The same collaboration and cooperation is needed to ensure that DNR managed lands meets the needs of local and regional economies. Over the next six years, the DNR will:

1. Complete a southern Michigan recreation plan with partners to identify roles, responsibilities, areas for expansion and strategies for meeting unmet outdoor recreation needs. The plan will build upon the gap analysis discussed earlier, interest and need surveys and priorities of the partnering organizations.
2. Work with the mineral industry and other resource-based industry to help identify desired outcomes and measurable objectives for DNR-managed public lands.

## **Increase Collaboration**

As stated earlier, collaboration with partners is essential in protecting natural resources, providing quality outdoor recreation and fostering the growth of land-based industries. Bob Frye of Cross Country Ski Headquarters in Roscommon already collaborates with the state as a part of his tourism business. Frye leases state land to maintain a network of cross country ski trails for his business.

“I think this is a good example of how the private sector and the public sector can partner and add value for everyone without destroying the very ‘Pure Michigan’ part of northern Michigan that residents and tourists from many states and provinces have come here to love and enjoy,” Frye said.

Over the next six years, the DNR will work collaboratively with its partners to improve the outdoor recreation system of the state, enhance the quality and diversity of its facilities, grow Michigan’s resource-based economy, restore habitats and species and protect cultural resources. This is not a new approach, but the Department recognizes that it can only meet its mission in the future by increasing collaboration and partnerships. It will:

1. Improve the process by which citizens can become a “Friends” organization to a DNR managed facility.
2. Launch annual meetings between public, private and non-profit recreation providers to foster collaboration and cooperation between providers and to coordinate among competing demands for the public land base.
3. Expand the habitat restoration program with partner organizations.
4. Collaborate with other large property owners to work on large-scale land consolidation efforts that are mutually beneficial and provide a public benefit.
5. Collaborate with the forest products industry and other economic interests to expand employment opportunities, increase forest product markets, and coordinate competing demands on DNR managed lands.

## **Focus on the Quality of Facilities**

SCORP, the Draft Comprehensive Trail Strategy, and the Blue Ribbon Panel Report all recognize the importance of maintaining quality facilities to retain and attract visitors.

Over the course of the next six years, Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) expects to focus capital outlay funding on upgrading and replacing aging and obsolete infrastructure. Replacement/upgrades will not be in total, but using a “sustained

contraction" approach. For example, two campground restroom buildings may be replaced with one centrally- located building and reviewing recreation trends in camping will influence the level of electrical service being replaced in a campground rather than like-kind replacement. All infrastructure replacement will consider longevity and sustainability. Many underground septic systems are failing due to their age. PRD will be reassessing these systems to determine priorities for improvement/repair/replacement in order to protect the overall water quality of the surrounding area. PRD recently instituted a fund-match incentive, to encourage local friends groups to fund raise for recreational elements, such as new play equipment or a fishing pier. This approach helps PRD provide the recreational amenities that our customers value, while still allowing PRD to focus on major infrastructure improvements. Other measures include:

1. Guidelines for quality maintenance will be established for the state-managed trail system and other DNR- managed recreational facilities and regular inspections will be made to ensure compliance with guidelines.
2. Proactive enforcement strategies will ensure that visitors to DNR managed facilities feel a sense of safety, environmental integrity is maintained and illegal use is controlled.

## **Increased Marketing**

Over the next six years, the DNR will focus its marketing efforts to fully leverage all of the recreational, natural and cultural resource protection and economic benefits provided by DNR-managed public lands. To achieve this, the DNR will:

1. Continue to partner with Pure Michigan to promote Michigan's natural features, and also improve its geo-referenced database to allow outdoor enthusiasts to better plan their outdoor fun and utilize the amenities provided by local communities.
2. Increase public understanding of natural resources management, recreation offerings and resource-based industries through the use of technology, including more Web-based tools like MI Hunt, which allows hunters to identify public hunting lands; or mobile or MP-3 applications, such as the ones that provide a downloadable audio tour of Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.
3. Collaborate with the public health community to highlight the linkages between outdoor recreation and opportunities for improved individual and family health.
4. Work with the land-based industries to provide improved information and processes to help guide the industries' investment decisions.

5. Explore ways to build cooperative marketing strategies to increase visitors and use with locally impacted partners.
6. Improve the permitting system for events and use of state land to cross-market facilities, attract event users to surrounding communities and better understand the economic impact of the events.
7. Improve marketing efforts targeted at encouraging the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses and increasing camp nights.

## Conclusion

From its much-prized furs and forests in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries to the modern, professionally managed woods, water and minerals, Michigan has long benefitted from its abundance of natural and cultural resources. Today, Michigan citizens and businesses demand investment in public lands as a way to grow the economy through tourism, forestry, oil and gas exploration and outdoor recreation.

“If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you” is the official motto of the State of Michigan. Making our peninsulas pleasant requires nurturing opportunities for recreation, collaborating with natural resource-based industries and protecting ecosystems to keep them functioning and healthy. This Public Land Management Strategy ensures that DNR public managed lands will continue to support this mission by providing quality recreation facilities, economically viable natural resource based industries and robust, functioning ecosystems. This strategy also ensures that DNR-managed public lands will be focused in priority areas and managed efficiently. It charts a course for DNR public managed lands to play a more integrated role in regional prosperity initiatives and creating a sense of place by taking a collaborative approach with partners.

For generations, Michiganders have valued protection of natural resources and access to public lands on which they can enjoy and use those resources. These values, while not completely unique to Michigan, are a part of nearly every Michigander’s experience – whether you are casting a line into the Detroit River at Milliken State Park in downtown Detroit, tracking a deer in the Pigeon River Country State Forest, hiking among the hemlocks at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park or making a living in the forest products industry. The future of these resources, and access to them, is dependent upon an adaptable land management strategy that can evolve with the trends, interests and needs of people and businesses.

# Appendix 1

## History of Michigan's Land

From the beginning of statehood, the State of Michigan has been in the real estate business and the owner of substantial acres of land. State policy shaped by public opinion determined how Michigan's public lands were viewed and how much land was retained in state ownership. The current DNR managed state land holdings -- state parks and recreation areas, game and wildlife areas and state forests -- were acquired through a deliberative process that reflected state policy and public opinion at the time. Early state policy supported the sale of publicly held land for settlement and development, changed to support the sale of land for exploitation, and then evolved to a policy of owning and managing public lands for public benefits.

When Michigan was admitted to the Union in 1837, the federal government granted land to the state which was sold to help raise revenues for government operations, build roads and provide public services (6 million acres) and build schools and universities (1,357,000 acres). In addition, the federal government granted land to the state to sell to individuals for the construction of highways, railroads, canals and bridges. For example, 750,000 acres was granted from the federal government to the state and transferred to individuals to pay for the construction of the St. Mary's ship canal and 250,000 acres for military wagon roads. Through these grants, 12 million acres passed from the federal government to the state.

To process this land, the State Land Office was established in 1843, charged with the responsibility of moving land as quickly as possible into private ownership to encourage settlement of the state. By 1890, all but 500,000 acres of government-owned lands were sold to private owners. Much of the land was sold because of its natural resource values; timber, minerals or for waterways.

The forested landscape of northern Michigan drew entrepreneurs who recognized the value of the forest to build the great cities, towns, and roads required by the rapidly growing nation. The lands were quickly acquired from the state and almost as quickly harvested and the timber was shipped to Chicago and other growing areas of the country. In 40 short years, the timber was gone and by 1870s the cut-over lands were being promoted and sold for agriculture purposes in attempt to lure immigrants from around the world to settle in Michigan. Poor soils, distance from markets, topography, and short growing seasons caused much of the farms to fail and the lands to go tax delinquent. The state policy at that time was to resell as fast as possible.

From the 1890s through the 1930s, the state underwent a series of economic downturns which caused lands to return to the state for non-payment of taxes -- over 116 million acres over a 22-year period. Public Act 206 of 1893, known as the General Property Tax Law, recognized the absolute taxing power of the state and provided for equal assessments and foreclosure on tax delinquent property with all taxing units sharing in any taxes lost on sale proceeds on land sold. Under this law, title on foreclosed property became absolute in the state and a new chain of title was created. By 1913, over two million acres of these lands had been turned over to the state and 1.8 million acres were transferred to private ownership through homesteading and sales. Whatever timber was remaining was harvested, and the land was again allowed to go tax delinquent. Other northern Michigan lands were purchased for farming, and because of poor soils were unsuccessful and were also allowed to go tax delinquent.

In an effort to stop this cycle of tax delinquencies, the legislature created a Forestry Commission in 1899 and began to set aside forest reserves. Further expansion of the state forests occurred with the creation of the Public Domain Commission in 1909. The creation of the Public Domain Commission was sparked by the gigantic forest fire in 1908 that burned across the state, burning more than 2.3 million acres of forest "slash" (the remnants left from logging) and costing the lives of 25 people. In 1911, the legislature provided the state with the authority to exchange lands to consolidate ownership, and in 1909 legislative action required the state to reserve the mineral rights on all lands sold or homesteaded.

In the early 1920s, the emerging state park system benefitted from the gifts of land to establish individual state parks, including D. H Day in Leelanau county (now part of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore), Hoeft State Park in Presque Isle County, Mears State Park in Oceana County, Wells State Park in Menominee County and 10 sites in Livingston, Monroe and Oakland counties donated by the Dodge Brothers Automobile company and four sites in Oakland County donated by Howard Bloomer.

The exploitation of land and resources triggered the rise of the conservation movement, and state policy then changed to a focus on wise allocation of land, rather than sale for short-term exploitation. Various commissions including the Forestry (1899), Public Lands and Fishery (1873), and Parks (1919) Commissions were created to manage resources and to stop exploitation to the point of extermination. The commissions were eliminated with the creation of the Department of Conservation in 1921.

In 1922, the Michigan Land Economic Survey was created to survey the lands in northern Michigan to determine their value for agriculture or more suitable for recreation or other public uses. The USDA (Land Use Planning Program) also had a land planning effort which lasted until the 1950. This planning effort was also

intended to stop the exploitation/tax delinquency cycle.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, the federal government began a major resettlement effort purchasing marginal farmland and resettling occupants on more productive lands. The marginal lands were set aside for state or national forests. The Civilian Conservation Corp was then used to reforest much of these lands. Under this program, "Recreation Demonstration Areas" were created at Waterloo and Yankee Springs which were later transferred to the state and became Waterloo and Yankee Springs Recreation Areas.

The economic depression of the 1930 saw another major round of tax delinquencies. In 1933, up to 80 percent of the taxable property in Michigan was delinquent for at least one year. In an effort to assist ailing local units of government, the state purchased large amounts of tax delinquent lands, and paid off local assessments. By 1937, 80 percent of the taxable land in Michigan was delinquent for three or more years. The land was offered for sale, and if not sold or the taxes paid prior to November 29, 1930, it became the property of the state. Through this process, the state took title to 2.2 million acres of land and a million subdivided parcels.

Land Use Planning Committees were organized for each county in the state comprised of some 1,700 local, county, township and school officials. In the 47 counties of northern Michigan, the Department of Conservation requested that the committees review all state land holdings including those that had recently become property of the state due to tax delinquency and make recommendations as to their future as:

- State lands for recreation or forest purposes
- Locally controlled lands by counties, townships or schools
- Private property.

As a result of this review, by 1950, over 1.3 million acres were offered for sale and sold and 130,000 acres were turned over to private ownership. The remaining acres were added to the state forest, wildlife areas or state park systems. Between 1950 and 1980, 62,000 additional acres of land reverted to the state and 200,000 acres of tax reverted lands were disposed of through sale, exchange or redemption.

In the 1940s the legislature recognized that the southern one-third of the state needed additional access to recreation and hunting lands and recreation facilities to attract tourists to the state. Several bond issues were passed, providing the resources to acquire marginal farmlands turning them into state parks and wildlife areas. In 1944, \$3 million was appropriated to acquire recreation areas in southeast Michigan and \$1 million to acquire the Porcupine Mountains. The Natural Resources Trust Fund was established by the legislature in 1976, heralded for the visionary purpose of the fund -- to replace the loss of one non-renewable resource (oil and gas) with another non-renewable resource (land).

The Natural Resources Trust Fund was placed in the Constitution through a ballot proposal in 1984. The program specifies that royalties derived from the sale and lease of mineral rights owned by the state should be used for the acquisition, development or conservation of lands.

In 1984 and 1996, there were two extensive studies conducted on Michigan's public land policy. The Report of The Task Force on Public Lands Policy was presented to Governor James Blanchard in 1984 and provided a series of 24 recommendations regarding the state's public land policy. The primary point of this report is that the state needed to block in its ownership of land and "did not find a need for major changes to land management practices and philosophies"

In 1996, the Senate Select Committee on Public Land Ownership, Purchase and Management also did an extensive study of the DNR's land acquisition policy as well as other state land-holding agencies. The select committee proposed seven "principle changes" in the state's land acquisition policy including improving outreach, greater flexibility in state programs to allow for shifts in land policy, regular review of Department's mission statements as they relate to land policy, adopt new attitudes and incentives to work with the private sector; legislature should reaffirm its role as the chief conservator of the state's natural assets, and better coordination of all state agencies land management practices.

## DNR Land Ownership Strategy

In response to Natural Resources Commission Policy 2627 of 2003 regarding DNR land holdings, the DNR initiated a thorough review of State land ownership. This project, known as the DNR Land Ownership Strategy, implemented a four-phase strategy to not only review the current DNR land ownership pattern, but to also evaluate those lands from a natural resources perspective and dispose of those parcels that did not contribute to the overall mission of the DNR. The purpose of the Land Ownership Strategy was to continue the on-going effort to consolidate State land ownership for a variety of outdoor recreation, natural resource benefits and land management efficiencies by reducing trespass issues, safety zone encroachments and the need to monitor and survey public/private boundary lines.

The current DNR Land Ownership Strategy consists of four phases:

### Phase 1 – Boundaries Action Strategy

DNR staff completed a thorough review of all existing management boundaries for state forests, state game areas, state wildlife areas, state recreation areas, and state parks. Updated management boundary recommendations were posted for public comment and submitted to the DNR Director for review and approval and

were adopted in May 2004. During 2011, management boundaries were reviewed again in an effort to reduce the amount of private land remaining inside DNR project boundaries. These new boundaries will be reviewed as a component of the 2013 Ownership Strategy.

#### Phase 2 – Strategy to Identify Nonessential State Lands

Thorough review on a county-by-county basis of all DNR-managed lands lying outside of the newly dedicated management boundaries was completed. Lands were reviewed for natural resource values, recreational opportunities, unique resource protection, public access, water frontage, historic or cultural significance, timber value and appropriate ownership. Parcels were placed into three categories: Retain, Offer to Unit of Government or Alternate Conservation Owner, and Dispose. For all 83 counties, public meetings were held in each county or groups of counties. Public comments were incorporated into the recommendations that were submitted to the DNR Director for review and approval. Final evaluation of parcels in all 83 counties was completed in April 2008.

#### Phase 3 – Strategy for Disposal of Identified Lands

Lands identified and approved for disposal, either to a unit of government or alternate conservation owner, or to the general public, have been made available for purchase or exchange. This land disposal effort is currently ongoing.

#### Phase 4 – Strategy to Maintain an Up-to-Date Public Land Base

In conjunction with its conservation partners and other land managing agencies, the DNR will implement a thorough review of the lands administered by the DNR at least once each decade. In response to ongoing interest in DNR land ownership, this process is also continuing at an accelerated schedule.

As a result of Phase 2 of the Land Ownership Strategy, a total of 9,831 parcels were evaluated. Of that total, 5,291 surplus parcels were approved for sale or exchange.

### Acquisition Strategy and Criteria

The DNR's land acquisition and management strategy is intended to assist in the implementation of the DNR's Land Ownership Strategy, as well as contribute to the broader ecosystem management approach across the entire landscape. Ecosystem management is a process that integrates biological, social, and economic factors into a comprehensive strategy aimed at protecting and enhancing sustainability, diversity, and productivity of natural resources. While the DNR focuses on acquisition within management boundaries, acquisition

outside of the management boundaries may also contribute to effective ecosystem management, as well as public recreational opportunities. Strategic acquisition of land helps to achieve the DNR's mission and goals by meeting one or more of the following criteria:

1. Consolidate existing state lands within management boundaries;
2. Provide new or additional public access to surface waters or other state lands;
3. Contain high natural resource values; or
4. Contain significant outdoor recreational values.

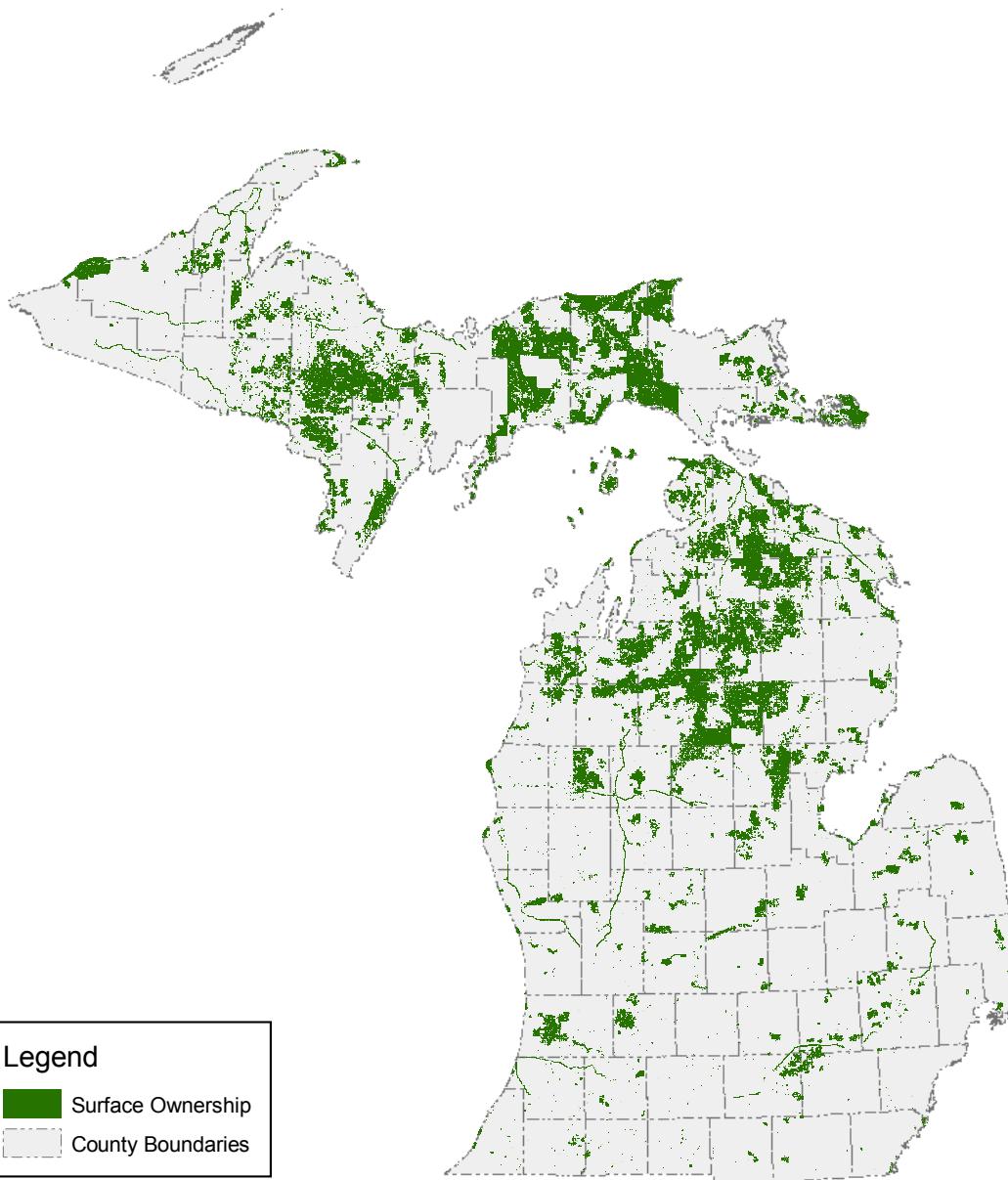
The acquisition strategy is implemented within the DNR by the Land Acquisition Strategy Team (LAST). LAST was established in 2007 in an effort to ensure that land acquisitions not only followed the DNR's strategy, but that they also included a holistic review to identify multi-resource and/or public recreation benefits. To accomplish this effort, LAST is comprised of staff from each of the resource divisions within the DNR. Further, this acquisition strategy is being implemented statewide utilizing a variety of funding sources and multiple resource partners to leverage funds in order to achieve the maximum value and success for acquiring public lands.

### Natural Resource/Land Management Benefits

The land acquisition strategy and the consolidation of State ownership are critical tools in increasing efficiencies in public land management. The pattern and distribution of ownership and land use greatly affects the ability to sustain natural resources, land management options, and ecological function and processes. Rather than increasing the burden of land management, the targeted acquisitions that employ these strategies significantly reduce staff time that is spent on land management issues, all while extending natural resource protections and high quality opportunities for public outdoor recreation. The benefits of these strategies include:

- Protect and improve existing public land ownership function
- Increase public recreational opportunities on contiguous blocks of land
- Increase timber management potential
- Significantly reduce the need for private property line establishment/surveys for timber sales and other forest treatments, freeing up foresters to mark timber
- Prevent illegal trespass on State lands
- Prevent loss of hunting lands due to safety zone encroachment
- Reduce the need to monitor public/private property lines
- Reduce private access easement needs/requests
- Reduce public/private land recreational use conflicts
- Prevent habitat fragmentation and habitat loss

# PUBLIC LANDS MANAGED BY THE DNR



Created: 7/18/2012



## Acquisition Priorities

Generally private land holdings within the public lands administered by the Department make it more difficult to carry out management for natural resource conservation as well as make it more difficult for the general public to use those lands for natural resource-oriented outdoor recreation. Therefore, both the recreational users and the resource managers benefit if the public lands comprise a solid block.

General Consolidation Acquisition Priorities are:

1. Private holdings within State Park boundaries;
2. Private holdings within State Game, Wildlife, and Recreation Area, or State Forest boundaries;
3. Private holdings that contain unique, critical, or at risk natural features that cannot be protected by other means provided in State and Federal laws;
4. Private holdings that would provide recreational trail connectors;
5. Private holdings that would provide public access to Michigan's waters, where access is not adequate; and

Within the category of Private Inholdings, the acquisition priorities are generally:

1. Private inholdings that have or are likely to have a negative impact on the conservation values or the efficient and effective management of existing public lands,
2. Private inholdings that have a negative impact on the outdoor recreational values of the existing public lands,
3. Private holdings that will provide or enhance public access to existing public lands and/or bodies of water where access is not sufficient

Within the category of providing Access to Michigan's Waters, more specific goals as follows:

- Boating and Fishing Access to Lakes: Provide public access on all Michigan lakes larger than 150 acres.
- General Boating and Fishing Access to Rivers: Provide at least one public access every 10 miles on all Michigan's rivers and streams.
- Fishing Access to Michigan's Quality Fishing Streams and Rivers: Provide at least one public access on every mile of Michigan's quality fishing streams and rivers.

## Geographic Priorities

The total number of potential outdoor recreation users is highest in Michigan's southern Lower Peninsula. However, the proportion of lands available to the public for outdoor recreation is lowest in the southern Lower Peninsula and increases considerably to the north.

In most cases the General Acquisition Priorities are adequate to guide the Department in acquisition decisions regardless of where the opportunities occur in the State. However, when acquisition opportunities are found to be relatively equal under the General Acquisition Priorities, as a general rule, Acquisition Priorities by Geographic Region of the State are:

1. Southern Lower Peninsula
2. Northern Lower Peninsula
3. Upper Peninsula

While these geographic priorities apply to most aspects of the Department's lands, specific restricted funds, such as the Deer Range Improvement Fund, are focused toward the acquisition of important deer habitat components such as winter deer yard areas, especially in the Upper Peninsula. In addition, the Department has placed a priority on developing partnership initiatives that will help address very large land holdings through the acquisition of conservation easements that provide continuation of science-based management of their forest resources and wildlife habitats, as well as provide for public access for natural resource-related outdoor recreation.

## Willing Seller

Actual acquisitions and land exchanges are always dependent on the Department working with a private landowner who is willing to sell or exchange their lands. The opportunity to acquire new land is therefore based on the availability of the land, the location of the land, and the availability of appropriate funding being available in a timely and flexible manner.

Disposal of State of Lands Administered by the Department of Natural Resources An important component of the Consolidation Strategy is to make effective use of those lands that are determined to be non-essential to program needs because they provide only marginal resource or recreational value. Such parcels are recommended for exchange, transfer to other land managers, or sold directly to private buyers. Conveyance of these parcels is conducted in a manner that; 1) continues to recognize the resource and recreational value and provides for their continued protection where warranted; and, 2) provides a means to convey surplus lands in a way that maximizes the return from their sale to purchase more desirable replacement lands or conduct exchanges of those lands for more desirable replacement lands.

Review of surplus parcels involves evaluation by all DNR land administering divisions using a holistic resource management approach. Parcels are evaluated for the following objectives:

- Pertinence to Department's core mission.
- Presence or absence of significant ecological features or recreation potential.
- Other relevant natural resource, public recreation, and cultural resource values.

Parcels to be disposed of through exchange and sale should generally meet the following:

1. The land lies outside State-dedicated boundaries and outside special project boundaries,
2. The land has relatively little natural resource, ecological or outdoor recreation values,
3. The disposal of the land would result in increased efficiency of land administration,
4. The natural resource, ecological or public outdoor recreation values of the land could be conserved and utilized as well or better if administered by another agency or owner,
5. An exchange of the land for other land will result in an improvement in the natural resource, ecological, or outdoor recreation values of land administered by the Department.

## LEGAL AUTHORITIES

<b>Constitutional Authorities</b>		<b>Authorities Which Allow The Department To Purchase Lands</b>
<b>Article IV, Section 52</b>	Conservation and development of natural resources of the state are hereby declared to be of paramount public concern... The legislature shall provide for the protection of the...other natural resources of the state from pollution, impairment or destruction.	
<b>Article IX, Section 35</b>	<b>Creates the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund</b>	The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund is available for the acquisition of land and development of recreation facilities. The Local Public Recreation Facility Fund generated from the sale of the Recreation Passport can be used for the development of local recreation facilities, including trails.
<b>Laws</b>		
<b>Public Act (PA) 51 of 1951, Section 10k funds</b>	<b>State Transportation Funds (MTF)</b>	All agencies receiving funds from Act 51 shall spend a minimum of one percent of their MTF when averaged over 10 years on non-motorized transportation facilities and services. This money can be used only for construction and not for operation or maintenance and includes funding for sideways, shared use paths, bike lands, and associated paving marking.

<b>Laws</b>	<b>Authorities Which Allow The Department To Purchase Lands</b>	
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 5</b>	Gives the DNR authority for contacts for taking and storage of mineral products, drilling operations for taking oil and gas, develop outdoor recreation facilities, remove and dispose of forest products, and guard against pollution, impairment or destruction. Gives power to the DNR over the management, control and disposition of all land under the public domain except those managed by other state agencies. Gives the DNR authority to buy, sell, exchange or condemn lands and other property. Manage lands under the control of the DNR to prevent any net decrease in the acreage of such lands that are open to hunting.	
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 19</b>	<b>Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Local Public Recreation Facility Fund</b> – provides that it can be used for the acquisition of land or rights in land for recreational uses or protection of the land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty or for the development of public recreation facilities.	The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund is available for the acquisition of land and development of recreation facilities. The Local Public Recreation Facility Fund generated from the sale of the Recreation Passport can be used for the development of local recreation facilities, including trails.
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 21</b>	DNR may sell sites to school districts and churches and for public purposes to public education institutions and to the US, and to governmental units of the state. DNR may transfer jurisdiction of tax reverted lands for public purposes to any department board or commission of the state without a reverter clause. If there is no reverter clause conveyance or transfers must be at appraised value. Allows for exchanges of land, grant easements, and designate surplus lands. Creates the land facilitation fund where proceeds from the sale of land are deposited for purchase of other lands.	
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Article III, Chapter 1, Part 351</b>	Allows for the designation of wilderness and natural areas and management of those areas.	

Laws	Authorities Which Allow The Department To Purchase Lands
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 365</b>	Endangered Species – Provides authority to the DNR to perform acts necessary for the conservation, protection, restoration and propagation of endangered species.
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 405</b>	The State assents to use game and fish license fees for no other purposes other than game and fish activities under administration of the Department.
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 413</b>	Allows the DNR to restore or remediate habitats or species damaged by invasive species or genetically engineered organisms.
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 415</b>	Provides the DNR with the authority to establish shooting and hunting grounds, hunting game preserves,
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 421</b>	Allows the DNR to establish dog training areas or acquire lands for dog training areas.
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 435</b>	<p><b>Hunting and Fishing License Fees</b> – Allows for the use of game and fish license dollars to purchase, lease and manage lands for the purpose of propagating and rearing of wildlife or fish and for the establishment and maintenance of game refuges, wildlife sanctuaries and public shooting and fishing grounds and to lease lands to provide for hunter access on private lands.</p>
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Subchapter 4, Part 511</b>	The DNR shall establish and maintain commercial forests.
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 525</b>	<p><b>Harvesting of State Forests</b> – The DNR shall manage the state forest in a manner that is consistent with the principle of sustainable forestry.</p>

<b>Laws</b>	<b>Authorities Which Allow The Department To Purchase Lands</b>
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 711</b>	<b>Recreation Improvement Fund</b> Dedicated revenues from state gas tax are used for maintenance and development of recreation trails.
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 723</b>	The DNR shall create a state system of trails and may accept gifts and grants in land, rights of ways or other property to establish trails.
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 741</b>	<b>State Parks</b> – The Department shall create, maintain, operate, promote and make available for public use and enjoyment a system of state parks to preserve and protect Michigan's significant natural resources and areas of scenic beauty or historic significance, to provide open space for public recreation and to provide an opportunity to understand Michigan's natural resources and the need to protect and manage those resources. Transfer or sale of state park land over 100 acres requires notice to legislature and public hearing.  Revenues received from the sale of Recreation Passport, out-of-state day use passes, camping, and other revenues can be used for the acquisition of land and the development, maintenance and operation of recreational facilities within state parks or facilities where a Recreation Passport is required.
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 761</b>	The state reserves the exclusive right and privilege to all aboriginal records and other antiquities including those found on the bottomlands of the Great Lakes.
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 781</b>	<b>Waterways</b> – Provides the power to the DNR to acquire, construct and maintain harbors, channels, and facilities including recreation boating access sites for vessels in the state's navigable waters.  The revenue from boat registrations and the sale of fuel that is deposited into the Waterways Fund can be used to develop, maintain and operate access sites that could be part of a river trail. The Waterways Fund can also be used for the acquisition of land.

Laws	Authorities Which Allow The Department To Purchase Lands
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 811</b>	<p><b>Off Road Vehicles</b> – Provides the authority to the DNR to acquire land for establishing ORV routes, trails and areas.</p>
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 821</b>	<p><b>Snowmobiles</b> – Provides the authority to the DNR to acquire land for establishing snowmobile trails.</p>
<b>PA 451 of 1994, Part 831</b>	<p><b>State Forest Recreation Fund</b> – Requires the Department to develop, operate, maintain and promote an integrated recreation system within the state forest.</p>
Federal Funds	
<b>23 USC 206</b>	<p><b>Recreational Trails Program (RTP)</b></p> <p>Dedicated revenues from federal gas tax used for maintenance and development of recreation trails. Funds must be distributed to project types to meet an allocation formula identified in the legislation; 30 percent motorized, 30 percent non-motorized, and 40 percent diversified use. Additionally, the program requires an advisory board made up of trail users to meet every fiscal year to provide guidance on the program.</p>

<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>Authorities Which Allow The Department To Purchase Lands</b>
<b>MAP-21 Act</b>	<p><b>Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP-21)</b></p> <p>MAP-21 extends the federal-aid highway program and authorized funding for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) as a set aside of the new Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). MAP-21 also amends the Surface Transportation Program (STP) to allow any projects eligible under the RTP to be eligible for STP funds.</p>
<b>LWCF</b>	<p><b>Land and Water Conservation Fund</b></p> <p>The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides funding for the acquisition of land and the development or renovation of outdoor recreation facilities. In the last few funding cycles Michigan has chosen to use LWCF funds for development of outdoor recreation facilities and not for land acquisition.</p>
<b>16 U.S. C. 669-669i (Pittman Robertson)</b>	<p><b>Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act</b></p> <p>Provides funding for the management and restoration of wildlife and provides resources for land acquisition. Funds are raised from an excise tax on ammunition and sporting arms.</p>
<b>16 U.S. C. 777-7771 (Dingell Johnson)</b>	<p><b>Federal Aid in Sportfishing Restoration Act</b></p> <p>Provides resources for state fish restoration, management plans and projects including the acquisition of land that provides access to fishing. Funds are raised on an excise tax on fishing equipment.</p>

Act No. 240  
Public Acts of 2012  
Approved by the Governor  
June 28, 2012  
Filed with the Secretary of State  
July 2, 2012  
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 2, 2012

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
96TH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2012**

Introduced by Senators Casperson, Robertson, Green, Marleau, Brandenburg and Pappageorge

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 248**

AN ACT to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "An act to protect the environment and natural resources of the state; to codify, revise, consolidate, and classify laws relating to the environment and natural resources of the state; to regulate the discharge of certain substances into the environment; to regulate the use of certain lands, waters, and other natural resources of the state; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state and local agencies and officials; to provide for certain charges, fees, assessments, and donations; to provide certain appropriations; to prescribe penalties and provide remedies; and to repeal acts and parts of acts," by amending sections 503 and 2132 (MCL 324.503 and 324.2132), section 503 as amended by 2011 PA 65 and section 2132 as amended by 1998 PA 117.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

Sec. 503. (1) The department shall protect and conserve the natural resources of this state; provide and develop facilities for outdoor recreation; prevent the destruction of timber and other forest growth by fire or otherwise; promote the reforesting of forestlands belonging to this state; prevent and guard against the pollution of lakes and streams within this state and enforce all laws provided for that purpose with all authority granted by law; and foster and encourage the protecting and propagation of game and fish.

(2) The department has the power and jurisdiction over the management, control, and disposition of all land under the public domain, except for those lands under the public domain that are managed by other state agencies to carry out their assigned duties and responsibilities. On behalf of the people of this state, the department may accept gifts and grants of land and other property and may buy, sell, exchange, or condemn land and other property, for any of the purposes of this part. Beginning 90 days after the effective date of the 2012 amendatory act that amended this section, the department shall not acquire surface rights to land unless the department has estimated the amount of annual payments in lieu of taxes on the land, posted the estimated payments on its website for at least 30 days, and notified the affected local units of the estimated payments at least 30 days before the acquisition.

(3) Before May 1, 2015, the department shall not acquire surface rights to land if the department owns, or as a result of the acquisition will own, the surface rights to more than 4,626,000 acres of land.

(4) Beginning May 1, 2015, the department shall not acquire surface rights to land north of the Mason-Arenac line if the department owns, or as a result of the acquisition will own, the surface rights to more than 3,910,000 acres of land north of the Mason-Arenac line. It is the intention of the legislature, if the legislature approves the strategic plan, to amend this section to remove the limitation set forth in this subsection.

(5) For the purposes of subsections (3) and (4), the number of acres of land in which the department owns surface rights does not include any of the following:

(a) Land in which the department has a conservation easement.

(b) Land platted under the land division act, 1967 PA 288, MCL 560.101 to 560.293, or a predecessor act before the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection if acquired by the department before the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection.

(c) Any of the following if acquired on or after the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection:

(i) Land with an area of not more than 80 acres, or a right-of-way, for accessing other land owned by the department.

(ii) A trail, subject to all of the following:

(A) If the traveled portion of the trail is located within an abandoned railroad right-of-way, the land excluded is limited to the abandoned railroad right-of-way.

(B) If the traveled portion of the trail is located in a utility easement, the land excluded is limited to the utility easement.

(C) If sub-subparagraphs (A) and (B) do not apply, the land excluded is limited to the traveled portion of the trail and contiguous land. The area of the contiguous land shall not exceed the product of 100 feet multiplied by the length of the trail in feet.

(iii) Land that, on the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection, was commercial forestland as defined in section 51101 if the land continues to be used in a manner consistent with part 511.

(iv) Land acquired by the department by gift, including the gift of funds specifically dedicated to land acquisition.

(v) Land acquired by the department through litigation.

(6) The department shall maintain a record of land as described in subsection (5)(a) to (c). The record shall include the location, acreage, date of acquisition, and use of the land. The department shall post and maintain on its website all of the following information:

(a) The number of acres of land, including land as described in subsection (5), in which the department owns surface rights north of the Mason-Arenac line, south of the Mason-Arenac line, in total for this state, and by program.

(b) The number of acres of land, excluding land as described in subsection (5), in which the department owns surface rights north of the Mason-Arenac line, south of the Mason-Arenac line, in total for this state, and by program.

(7) By October 1, 2014, the department shall develop a written strategic plan to guide the acquisition and disposition of state lands managed by the department, submit the plan to the senate and house committees with primary responsibility for natural resources and outdoor recreation and the corresponding appropriation subcommittees, and post the plan on the department's website. In developing the plan, the department shall solicit input from the public and local units of government.

(8) The strategic plan shall do all of the following:

(a) Divide this state into regions.

(b) Identify lands managed by the department in each region.

(c) Set forth for each region measurable strategic performance goals with respect to all of the following for land managed by the department:

(i) Maximizing availability of points of access to the land and to bodies of water on or adjacent to the land.

(ii) Maximizing outdoor recreation opportunities.

(iii) Forests.

(iv) Wildlife and fisheries.

(d) To assist in achieving the goals set forth in the strategic plan pursuant to subdivision (c), identify all of the following:

(i) Land to be acquired.

(ii) Land to be disposed of.

(iii) Plans for natural resource management.

(e) To the extent feasible, identify public lands in each region that are not managed by the department but affect the achievement of the goals set forth in the strategic plan pursuant to subdivision (c).

(f) Identify ways that the department can better coordinate the achievement of the goals set forth in the strategic plan pursuant to subdivision (c), recognizing that public lands are subject to multiple uses and both motorized and nonmotorized uses.

(9) The department shall not implement the strategic plan as it applies to land north of the Mason-Arenac line. It is the intention of the legislature, if the legislature approves the strategic plan, to amend this section to remove the prohibition set forth in this subsection. The department shall annually report on the implementation of the plan and submit and post the report in the manner provided in subsection (7).

(10) Beginning 8 years after the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection and every 6 years thereafter, the department shall update the strategic plan and submit and post the updated plan in the manner provided in subsection (7). At least 60 days before posting the updated plan, the department shall prepare, submit, and post in the manner provided in subsection (7) a report on progress toward the goals set forth pursuant to subsection (8)(c) in portions of this state where, subject to subsection (9), the plan is being implemented and any proposed changes to the goals, including the rationale for the changes. The submittal and posting shall include department contact information for persons who wish to comment on the report.

(11) At least 30 days before acquiring or disposing of land, the department shall submit to the senate and house committees with primary responsibility for natural resources and outdoor recreation and the corresponding appropriations subcommittees a statement identifying the land and describing the effect of the proposed transaction on achieving the goals set forth in the strategic plan pursuant to subsection (8)(c). The statement shall include department contact information for persons who wish to comment on the acquisition or disposition and be in a standard format. The department shall also post the statement on its website for at least 30 days before the acquisition or disposition. This subsection does not apply before the department submits the plan to legislative committees as required under subsection (7).

(12) The department may accept funds, money, or grants for development of salmon and steelhead trout fishing in this state from the government of the United States, or any of its departments or agencies, pursuant to the anadromous fish conservation act, 16 USC 757a to 757f, and may use this money in accordance with the terms and provisions of that act. However, the acceptance and use of federal funds does not commit state funds and does not place an obligation upon the legislature to continue the purposes for which the funds are made available.

(13) The department may appoint persons to serve as volunteers for the purpose of facilitating the responsibilities of the department as provided in this part. Subject to the direction of the department, a volunteer may use equipment and machinery necessary for the volunteer service, including, but not limited to, equipment and machinery to improve wildlife habitat on state game areas.

(14) The department may lease lands owned or controlled by the department or may grant concessions on lands owned or controlled by the department to any person for any purpose that the department determines to be necessary to implement this part. In granting a concession, the department shall provide that each concession is awarded at least every 7 years based on extension, renegotiation, or competitive bidding. However, if the department determines that a concession requires a capital investment in which reasonable financing or amortization necessitates a longer term, the department may grant a concession for up to a 15-year term. A concession granted under this subsection shall require, unless the department authorizes otherwise, that all buildings and equipment shall be removed at the end of the concession's term. Any lease entered into under this subsection shall limit the purposes for which the leased land is to be used and shall authorize the department to terminate the lease upon a finding that the land is being used for purposes other than those permitted in the lease. Unless otherwise provided by law, money received from a lease or a concession of tax reverted land shall be credited to the fund providing financial support for the management of the leased land. Money received from a lease of all other land shall be credited to the fund from which the land was purchased. However, money received from program-related leases on these lands shall be credited to the fund providing financial support for the management of the leased lands. For land managed by the forest management division of the department, that fund is either the forest development fund established pursuant to section 50507 or the forest recreation account of the Michigan conservation and recreation legacy fund provided for in section 2005. For land managed by the wildlife or fisheries division of the department, that fund is the game and fish protection account of the Michigan conservation and recreation legacy fund provided for in section 2010.

(15) When the department sells land, the deed by which the land is conveyed may reserve all mineral, coal, oil, and gas rights to this state only when the land is in production or is leased or permitted for production, or when the department determines that the land has unusual or sensitive environmental features or that it is in the best interest of this state to reserve those rights as determined by commission policy. However, the department shall not reserve the rights to sand, gravel, clay, or other nonmetallic minerals. When the department sells land that contains subsurface rights, the department shall include a deed restriction that restricts the subsurface rights from being severed from the surface rights in the future. If the landowner severs the subsurface rights from the surface rights, the subsurface rights revert to this state. The deed may reserve to this state the right of ingress and egress over and across land along

watercourses and streams. Whenever an exchange of land is made with the United States government, a corporation, or an individual for the purpose of consolidating the state forest reserves, the department may issue deeds without reserving to this state the mineral, coal, oil, and gas rights and the rights of ingress and egress. The department may sell the limestone, sand, gravel, or other nonmetallic minerals. However, the department shall not sell a mineral or nonmetallic mineral right if the sale would violate part 353, part 637, or any other provision of law. The department may sell all reserved mineral, coal, oil, and gas rights to such lands upon terms and conditions as the department considers proper and may sell oil and gas rights as provided in part 610. The owner of those lands as shown by the records shall be given priority in case the department authorizes any sale of those lands, and, unless the landowner waives that priority, the department shall not sell such rights to any other person. For the purpose of this section, mineral rights do not include rights to sand, gravel, clay, or other nonmetallic minerals.

(16) The department may enter into contracts for the sale of the economic share of royalty interests it holds in hydrocarbons produced from devonian or antrim shale qualifying for the nonconventional source production credit determined under section 45k of the internal revenue code of 1986, 26 USC 45k. However, in entering into these contracts, the department shall assure that revenues to the natural resources trust fund under these contracts are not less than the revenues the natural resources trust fund would have received if the contracts were not entered into. The sale of the economic share of royalty interests under this subsection may occur under contractual terms and conditions considered appropriate by the department and as approved by the state administrative board. Funds received from the sale of the economic share of royalty interests under this subsection shall be transmitted to the state treasurer for deposit in the state treasury as follows:

(a) Net proceeds allocable to the nonconventional source production credit determined under section 45k of the internal revenue code of 1986, 26 USC 45k, under this subsection shall be credited to the environmental protection fund created in section 503a.

(b) Proceeds related to the production of oil or gas from devonian or antrim shale shall be credited to the natural resources trust fund or other applicable fund as provided by law.

(17) As used in this section:

(a) "Concession" means an agreement between the department and a person under terms and conditions as specified by the department to provide services or recreational opportunities for public use.

(b) "Lease" means a conveyance by the department to a person of a portion of this state's interest in land under specific terms and for valuable consideration, thereby granting to the lessee the possession of that portion conveyed during the period stipulated.

(c) "Mason-Arenac line" means the line formed by the north boundaries of Mason, Lake, Osceola, Clare, Gladwin, and Arenac counties.

(d) "Natural resources trust fund" means the Michigan natural resources trust fund established in section 35 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963 and provided for in section 1902.

(e) "Net proceeds" means the total receipts received from the sale of royalty interests under subsection (16) less costs related to the sale. Costs may include, but are not limited to, legal, financial advisory, geological or reserve studies, and accounting services.

(f) "Strategic plan" or "plan" means the plan developed under subsection (7).

Sec. 2132. (1) Subject to subsection (2), the department may sell surplus land at a price established using the method that the department determines to be most appropriate, such as any of the following:

(a) Appraisal.

(b) Appraisal consulting.

(c) A schedule adopted by the department for pricing property with uniform characteristics and low utility.

(d) The true cash value of nearby land as determined by the local assessor.

(2) If the department offers tax reverted land for sale and the land is not sold within 9 months, the department may sell the land to a qualified buyer who submits an offer that represents a reasonable price for the property as determined by the department.

(3) The sale of surplus land shall be conducted by the department through 1 of the following methods:

(a) A public auction sale.

(b) A negotiated sale.

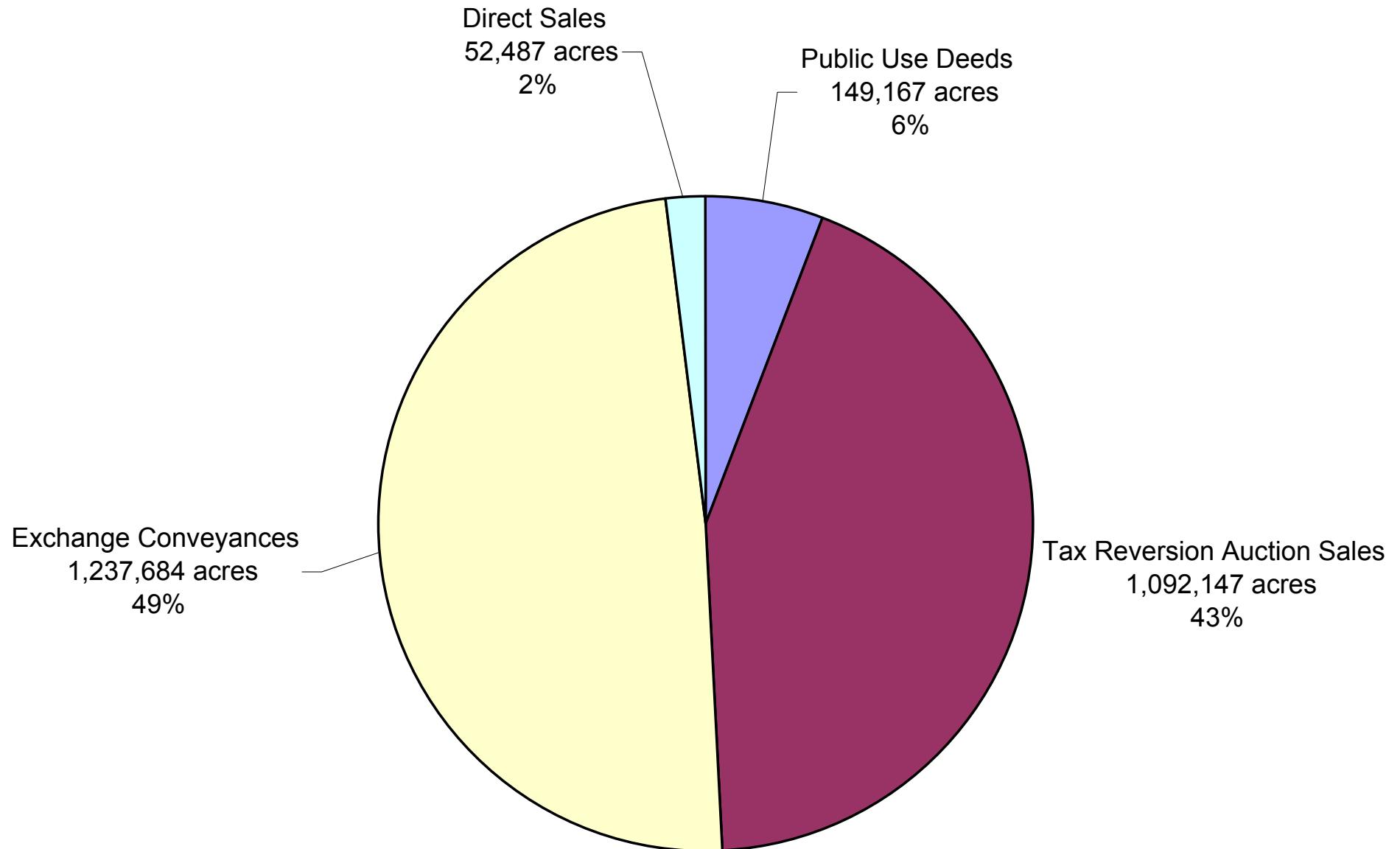
(4) Subject to subsection (1), the sale of surplus land through a public auction sale shall be to the highest bidder.

(5) A notice of the sale of surplus land shall be given as provided in section 2133.

(6) The proceeds from the sale of surplus land shall be deposited into the fund.

(7) Surplus land that is sold under this subpart shall be conveyed by quitclaim deed approved by the attorney general.

## Conveyances 1921 to Present Acreage Parcels Only



## DNR Managed Public Lands Disposal Process

The following provides the stepped process for disposing of DNR managed public lands under this Public Land Management Strategy:

Parcels with no public access or are not consolidated will be evaluated using disposal criteria and a determination will be made to:

- Dispose
- Offer to a Conservation Partner
- Retain

Each parcel will be reviewed for the following:

- Parcel Funding Source
- Title or Deed Restrictions
- Occurrence of a Recreation Trail
- Occurrence of environmental issues, e.g. contamination
- Occurrence of oil, gas or mineral lease or lease nomination
- Cultural and Historic importance

After internal parcel review, the public will have an opportunity to comment on the parcel evaluation

- Public meetings

Public comments will be reviewed internally and a recommendation on whether the parcels will be retained or disposed.

- Public comments are considered within recommendation

Director decision at a Natural Resource Commission meeting

### Legislative 30-day Notice of Disposal

- Notify House and Senate Committees
- House - Natural Resources, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation; and Natural Resources appropriations subcommittee
- Senate – Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes; and Department of Natural Resources appropriations subcommittee

### DNR Website 30 Notice of Disposal

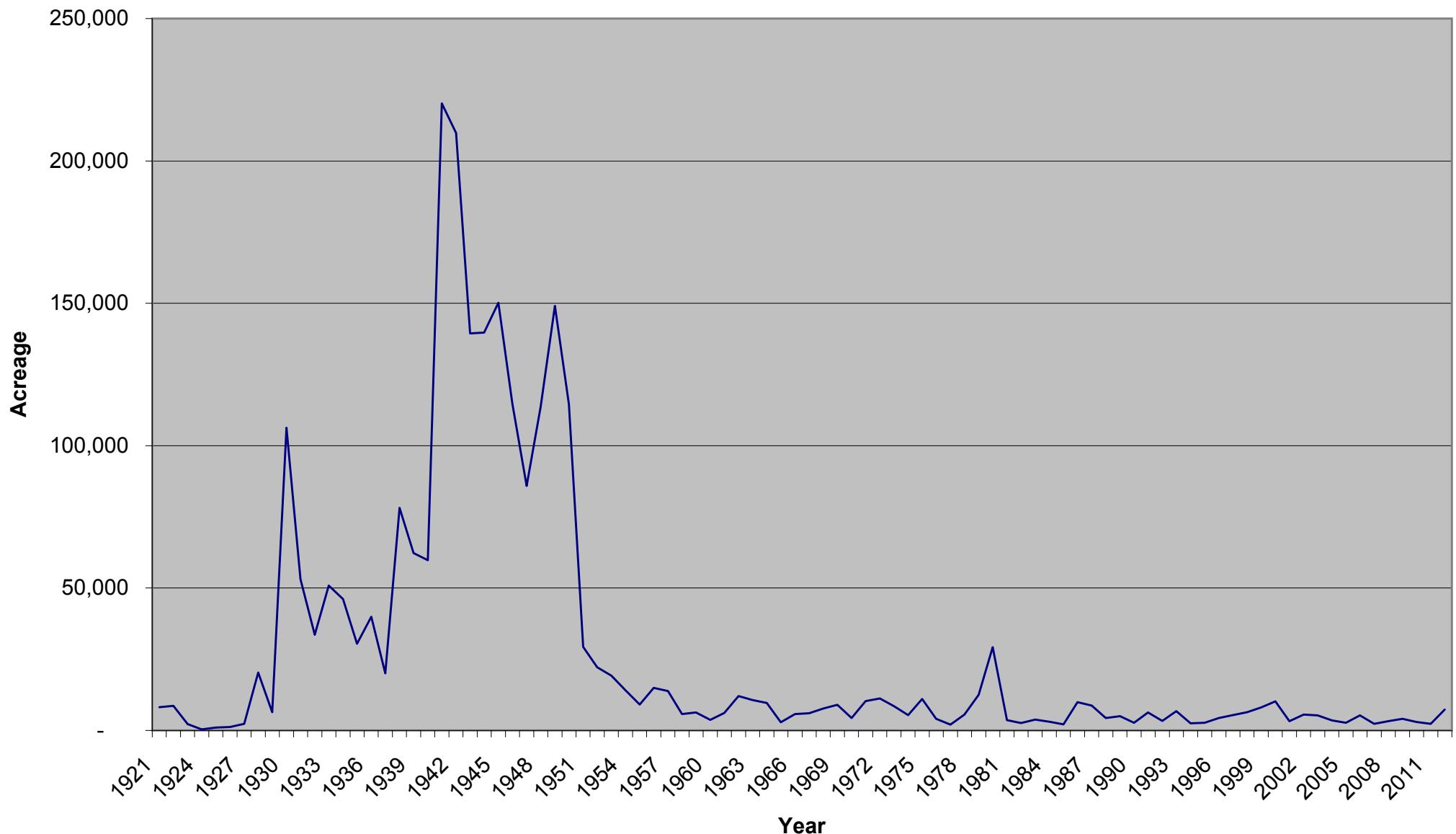
- Post the Legislative Notice on the DNR Website for review and comment

### Sale of Surplus Land

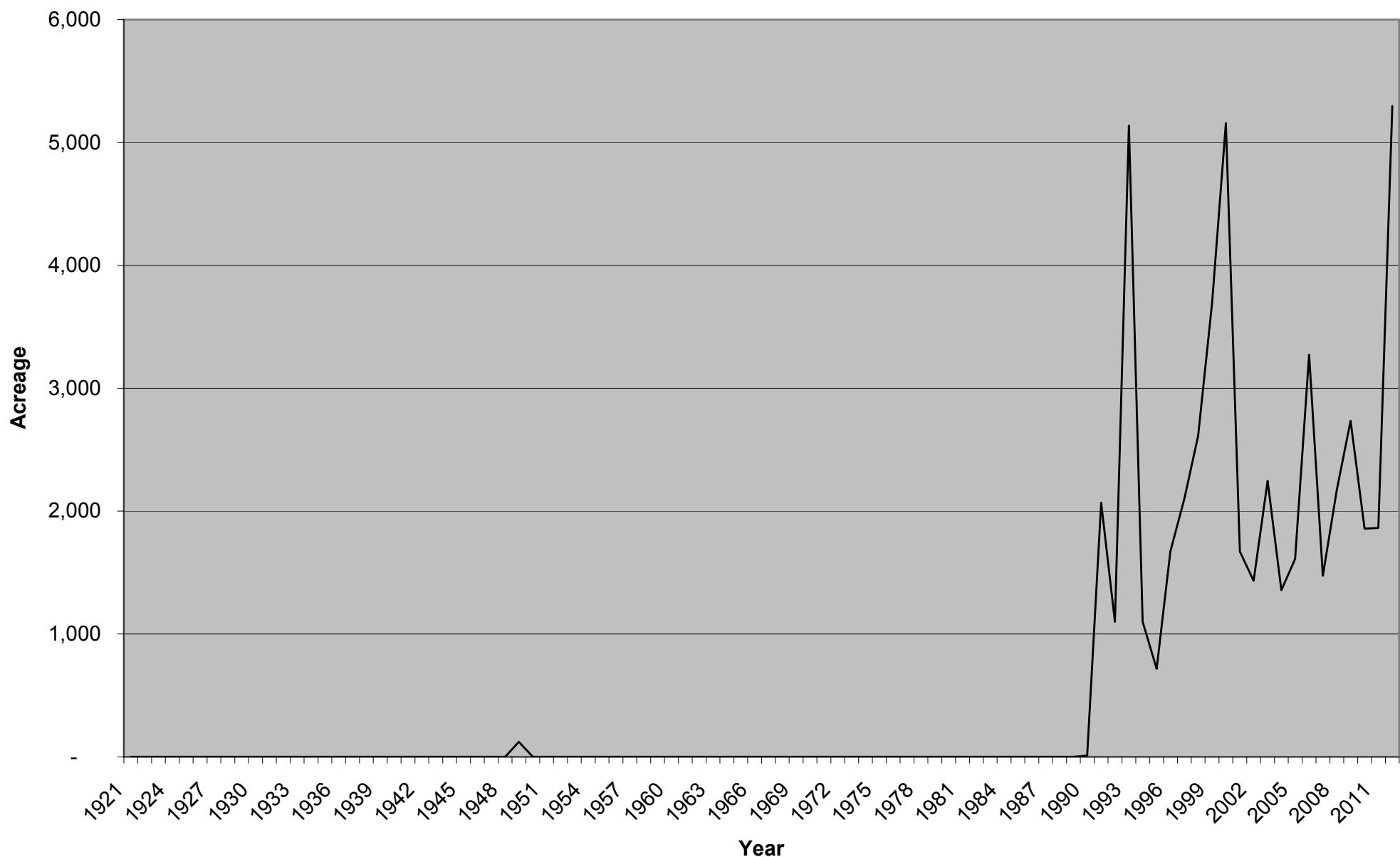
- Offers are made to:
- Local Units
- Conservation Partners
- Private Owners

Parcels will be sold by public auction, exchange, or direct sale. If parcels do not sell, parcels will remain for sale or be transferred to the Michigan Land Bank where appropriate.

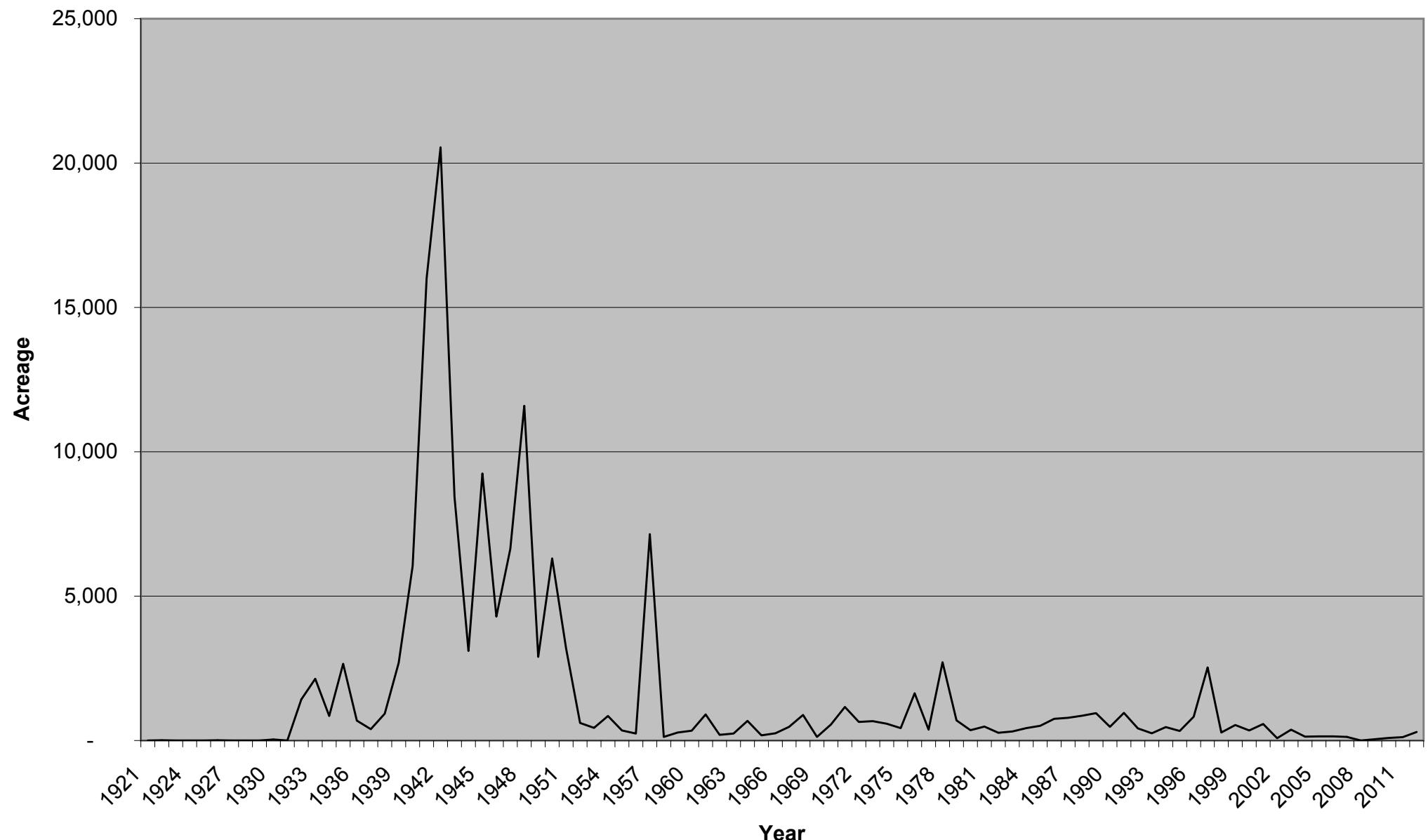
Total Conveyances 1921 to Present  
Acreage Parcels Only  
Does Not Include Reconveyances, Certificates of Errors and Several Other Categories



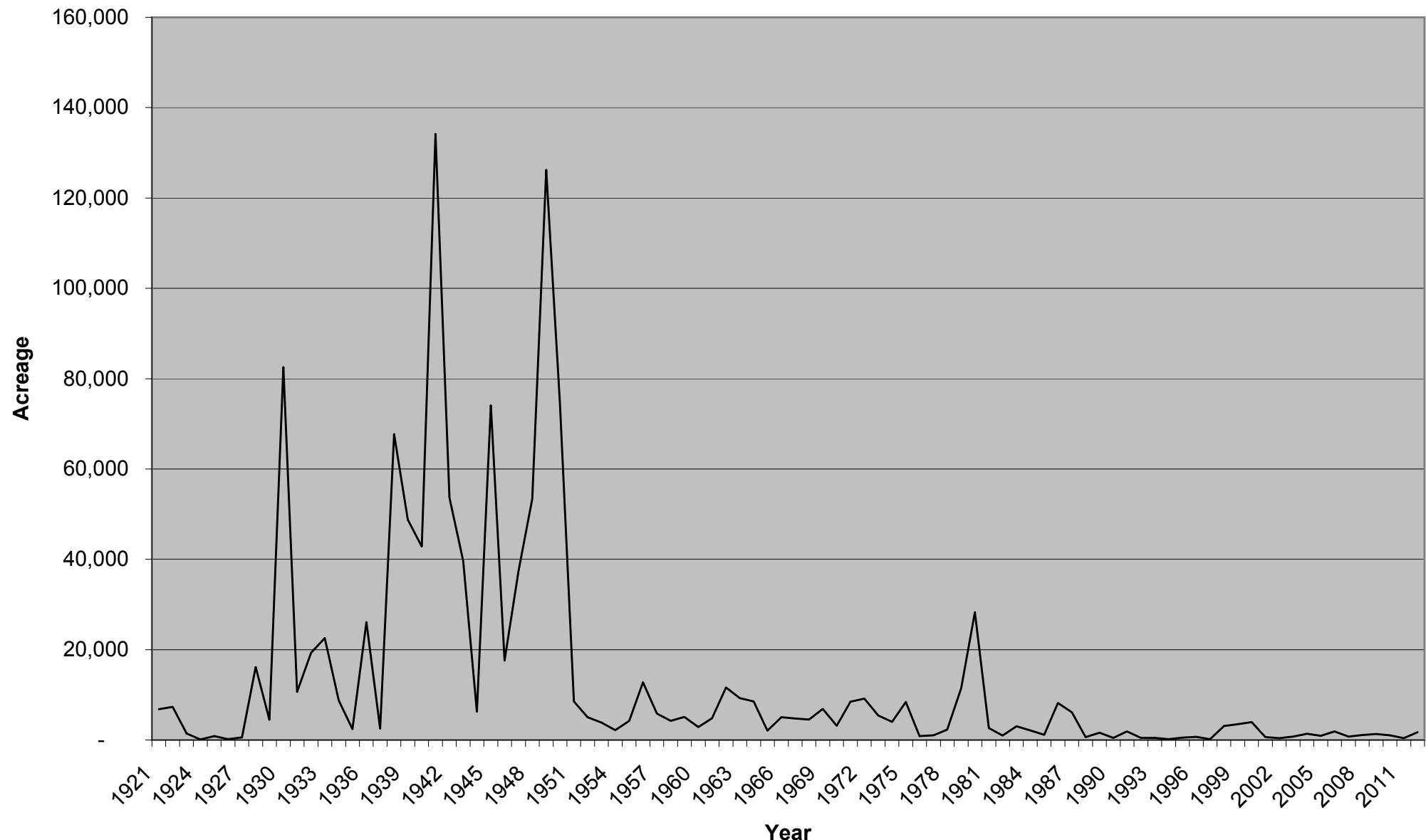
### Direct Sales 1921 to Present



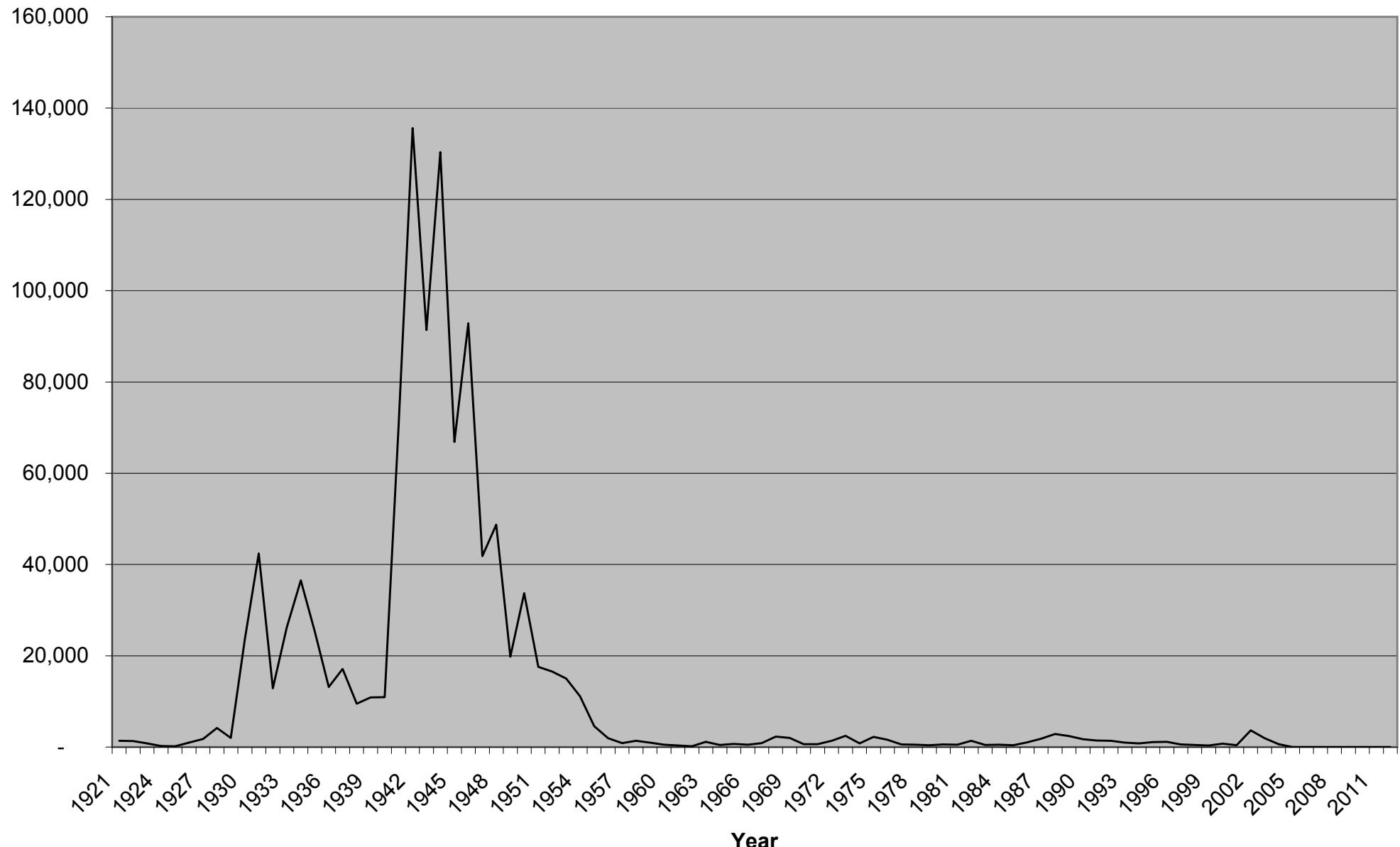
Public Use Deed Conveyances 1921 to Present  
Acreage Parcels Only



Exchange Conveyances - All Types - 1921 to Present  
Acreage Parcels Only



Tax Reversion Land Sales 1921 to Present  
Acreage Parcels Only



## Transactions Supporting Economic Activities 2008 to 2012

### Introduction

During the last five years, the Department has completed more than 1,000 land transactions. These transactions have involved the selling, purchasing and exchanging of surface ownerships, utility easements, access easements, mineral rights and conservation easements for projects that support local, regional, and statewide economies as well as projects that further the Department's mission. An overview of the more significant transactions is provided below. A map showing the approximate location of each transaction is provided at the end of this report.

### Land Sales

#### 1 - Proud Lake Land Sale

The Department conveyed a 502-acre parcel of land in Oakland County to Commerce Township for community enhancement and the creation of a public park for its 36,000 residents. The Township intends to improve a portion of the property for developed outdoor recreation activities, such as ball fields, an ice rink and basketball courts.

#### 2 - Land Consolidation Strategy Sales and Exchanges

In 2004, the Department established its current land management boundaries and began the review of potential surplus lands that lie outside of those boundaries. Within the past five years, 298 transactions have been completed under this program. These properties total 6,638 acres of land with the vast majority of them being initially acquired by the state through the tax reversion process. Many of these lands have now been returned to the tax rolls.

### Easement Sales

Based on a random sample of the 9,172 easements that the Department has granted over its lifetime, the Department has granted easement across 8,740 miles of land. This is a distance nearly equal to driving from Lansing to San Diego four times. In addition to these easements there is an estimated 2,360 miles of county road right-of-ways on Department managed lands that are not covered by written easements.

In just the past five years, the Department has issued 282 easements across 186 miles of land. As shown on the following chart, the easements have been issued for a variety of uses, including, but not limited to: telecommunications, oil and gas pipelines, electricity, water, sewage, highways and driveways.

Provided below are examples of easements that enhanced the quality of life and provided positive economic impacts for the people of the state.

#### 3 - Kinross Charter Township Easement

Water main, sewer, road and electric easement to support the Frontier Renewable Resources Plant ethanol plant in Kinross. According to the Frontier Renewable Resources website, Frontier will develop and operate a first-of-its-kind commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol facility in Kinross. The facility will use a consolidated bioprocessing technology platform to convert hardwood pulpwood into 20 million gallons of ethanol per year initially. Construction is expected to cost an estimated \$232 million to complete.

#### 4 - Heritage Sustainable Energy / American Transmission Company Easement

Six miles of electric transmission and a substation on State-owned land to support the Garden Peninsula Wind Farm. The Garden Wind Farm in Garden Township, Delta County, Michigan, is the first wind energy generating facility in the Upper Peninsula. It consists of 14 two-megawatt wind turbines for a total installed generation capacity of 28 megawatts. The wind farm became fully operational in September of 2012. Over an annual period, the wind farm is anticipated to generate in excess of 70,000 megawatt hours of renewable, clean electricity. This is equivalent to the amount of energy needed to power nearly 7,000 average households (almost 50 percent of Delta County's households).

#### 5 - Whitewater Express Pipeline Easement

The Department granted an easement covering six miles of a 15.75 mile long natural gas pipeline with a construction cost of \$3.6 million. This pipeline will enable the efficient transport of natural gas from wells drilled in Antrim and Grand Traverse counties for delivery to the Kalkaska Gas Plant. The facility extracts propane and other heavier hydrocarbons from natural gas and has a design capacity to generate 75 MWe of electricity for distribution to the public.

#### 6 - American Transmission Company Iron County Easement

Four and one-half miles of electric transmission corridor in Iron County for a project that reinforced the electrical transmission infrastructure in the Western Upper Peninsula.

#### 7 - Alger-Delta Electric Association Easement

Upgrade and add to the electric infrastructure in Marquette County for local service and the Kennecott Eagle Mine. The Kennecott Eagle Mine is an \$80 million nickel and copper mine in northern Marquette County that is expected to directly employ up to 70 full-time workers who will process 1,500 tons of ore per day.

#### 8 - Harbor Springs Area Sewer Authority Easement

Three and one-half mile long sanitary force main running within a rail-trail corridor in order to provide sewer service along the developing US 31 corridor from Bay View to Alanson.

#### 9 - City of St. Joseph Easement

This easement permitted the City of St. Joseph to construct a nearly one mile long water intake pipe along and under the Lake Michigan bottomlands. This will permit the City to increase their current pumping capacity of 16 million gallons per day to 40 million gallons per day. The new intake is also located in deeper water, which will provide improved water quality to the citizens of St. Joseph and be more reliable as the new intake site will require less dredging to keep it clear of shifting sediments.

#### 10 - Moyle Real Estate Development Easement

The Department conveyed a 100 foot wide easement across the Keweenaw Trail, east of Hancock, in order to provide access to a 72-unit high end condominium project that was developed on a reclaimed industrial site.

#### 11 - Encana / CVB Pipeline Easement

Six miles of natural gas pipeline crossing DNR managed land that will be used to transport natural gas from several proposed natural gas wells.

## Development Partnerships

### 12 - Detroit Riverfront Project

Between 2009 and 2012, the Department acquired the 26.46 acre Detroit Free Press property and the Detroit RiverWalk along the banks of the Detroit River in Downtown Detroit. This multi-phase acquisition project is in association with the Department's William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor. It is being continued with the development of the Globe Outdoor Adventure Center and purchase of adjacent land that will expand amenities along this urban open space corridor. This project is based on collaborative efforts between the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, City of Detroit, the Department of Natural Resources and many other partnerships seeking to transform the Detroit Riverfront into a vibrant and attractive green space.

### 13 - Crawford County Economic Development Partnership

In April of 2000, the Department entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement with what is now the Crawford County Economic Development Partnership. The Department and the Partnership have identified a 1,850 acre area to the south east of the City of Grayling, adjacent to both I-75 and an active railroad line, that the Department stands ready to convey to developers per the terms of the MOU.

## Exchanges

### 14 - Nub's Nob Exchange

Beginning in the early 1980s the Department conveyed land to the Nub's Nob ski resort for the expansion of the resort. This latest transaction was completed in 2011 and represents the final transaction for this 30 year project. The Nub's Nob ski resort has 248 acres of skiable terrain (much of it acquired from the Department), 53 ski runs, and 58 lodges with over 2,800 rooms.

### 15 - Longyear/Mascoma Exchange

This exchange involved a total of 1,164 acres of land and provided the proposed Frontier Renewable Resources ethanol plant in Kinross. A total of 355 acres of land were conveyed so that it could develop and operate the previously detailed first-of-its-kind commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol facility in Kinross. The facility will use a consolidated bioprocessing

technology platform to convert hardwood pulpwood into 20 million gallons of ethanol per year initially. Construction is expected to cost an estimated \$232 million to complete.

## Public Use Deeds

### 16 - Iron Ore Heritage Trail Public Use Deed

The Iron Ore Heritage Trail is envisioned as a 48-mile, multi-use, year round trail. It connects, preserves, and interprets the significant structures and stories of the iron mining heritage of Marquette County. The goals are to provide local residents and visitors with a wide variety of outdoor activities. Also to serve as a resource for teachers and the public to learn about the local mining industry while gaining an understanding of the local natural and cultural history, and to serve as a spur for local economic development opportunities. In 2012, the Department conveyed over 280 acres of land by Public Use Deed to the Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority (IOHRA), a multijurisdictional body representing 10 local governmental units. The land exchange secured over 380 acres of land that was required to complete the connectivity of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail east of Negaunee.

## Purchases

### Rail-Trail Acquisitions

Working to complete the vision of an interconnected state trail system requires a coordinated and concerted action among the many organizations pursuing trail development statewide. The transactions that follow represent impressive progress toward fulfilling that vision.

### 17 - Marquette West Connector Extension Purchase

In 2009, the Department and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), to work collaboratively to acquire rail corridors as they become available. In this example, the Department held title to a 6.27 mile long corridor named the Marquette West Connector. The eastern 3.55 miles is "railbanked" under federal statute to preserve the corridor for future rail reactivation while providing for interim trail use. The Mineral Range Inc. had an easement to operate a railroad over the western 2.72 miles. In 2011, the Department and MDOT

partnered to acquire the easement rights to a 0.31 mile long segment offered by the Mineral Range Inc. The acquisition of the offered rights will protect the Department's ownership interest and ensure the preservation of the Marquette West Connector for future transportation use, while allowing trail opportunities in the interim. In combination with this easement acquisition, the Department and Mineral Range Inc. entered into an MOA that sets forth the roles and responsibilities to safely provide both trail and rail use within the remaining 2.41 miles of corridor. By doing so, a permanent route is ensured for the Iron Ore Heritage Trail (IOHT). When combined with the land secured in the exchange completed by the Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority (see Public Use Deeds LTA #20110157 above), this transaction allowed the development of an additional 11.0 miles of the IOHT to be completed in 2013 with grant monies provided by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and MDOT.

#### 18 - Ironwood to Bessemer and State Line Trail Connector Purchase

Working collaboratively with the Gogebic Range Next Generation Initiative (GRNGI), the segments of inactive railroad corridor purchased by the Department in 2012 were stitched together from three separate sellers (Wisconsin Central Ltd, Keweenaw Land Association, and White Spruce Rentals), to serve as the core of the Initiative's "Strengthening Our Niche Regional Trail Concept." The intent is to provide multi-use trails for motorized and non-motorized users. GRNGI serves the communities of western Gogebic County in Michigan and eastern Iron County in Wisconsin with the mission to retain and attract young people on the Gogebic Range. Beginning near the Wisconsin border on the Montreal River at Ironwood and extending eastward to Bessemer, the offered 7.44 linear miles of inactive Soo Line and C&NW railroad corridors include the following features: the Soo Line railroad bridge over the Montreal River and a 70-foot long easement over the bridge approach on the Wisconsin side to provide motorized and non-motorized trail connectivity between the states' trail systems; a 1,251-foot long extension of the State Line Trail east of the City of Wakefield; and three steel bridges, one of which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Also offered is a 0.7 acre parcel to the State that is next to the old railroad depot property in the City of Ironwood. The City is the recipient of a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant to develop the property as a downtown park and trailhead. The offered parcel will allow the trail to connect to the future city park. Coupled with other downtown enhancement projects and streetscape improvements, the proposed City of Ironwood Depot Recreation Park and Trailhead is being locally touted as the future Western Upper Peninsula Recreation Gateway, connecting Ironwood to Wisconsin and neighboring Michigan communities through a growing multi-state regional trail system.

#### 19 - Iron Mountain Connector Purchase

The purchased corridor stretches 1.35 miles roughly parallel to US-2 and just north of the Central Business District of the City of Iron Mountain. This segment provides a critical connection into the City from a designated snowmobile trail that runs along a section of inactive railroad corridor acquired by the Department in 1990. The segment is also identified by the Dickinson County Bike Path Committee as a proposed route to connect downtown to the Lake Antoine Bike Path.

#### 20 - Musketawa Trail Extension Purchase

This acquisition, the first of two in which the Department acquired a permanent 20-foot wide recreational trail easement within the right-of-way of the active rail line of the Coopersville & Marne Railway Company (see Coopersville to Marne below), stretches 3.25 miles between Marne and the City of Walker. This easement acquisition provides a critical link toward connecting the State-owned Musketawa Trail and the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park. In cooperation with Ottawa County Parks and Recreation, Kent County Parks, and the Kent County Road Commission, the acquisition of this easement brought the Musketawa Trail one step closer to connecting to the growing network of trails and parks along the Grand River in the Grand Rapids metropolitan area. Development of the trail will include sufficient fencing and barricade features between the active rail line and the trail to ensure the safety of trail users.

#### 21 - Coopersville to Marne Railroad Corridor Purchase

The second of two transactions in which the Department acquired a permanent 20-foot wide recreational trail easement within the right-of-way of the active rail line of the Coopersville & Marne Railway Company, this easement stretches 8.39 miles between Coopersville and Marne, and is a direct extension to the adjoining easement acquired in LTA 20090129 described above. Like the previous phase, this easement represents a big step forward in regional trail connectivity by providing a link to the North Bank Trail. The North Bank Trail is a proposed non-motorized pathway which is to be constructed west along the same, but inactive portion of, the former Grand Trunk Railroad corridor that the Coopersville & Marne Railway operates on to the east. The trail will connect the Greater Grand Rapids area to the Grand Haven lakeshore community. The first phase of the North Bank Trail is being funded in part through local grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to Spring Lake Township and the Village of Spring Lake.

#### 22 - Grand River Edges Purchase

The acquired 12.09 acres of inactive railroad corridor stretches nearly one mile along the east bank of the Grand River just north of the Central Business District of the City of Grand Rapids. A unique acquisition toward the City's vision of a system of interconnected parks and pathways along the Grand River, the property fills a gap between the City's Riverwalk Pathway to the south and the Riverside Park Trail to the north. This segment, with substantial frontage along the Grand River, is the final piece of corridor that will connect the City of Grand Rapids to 245 miles of the state rail-trail network that includes the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park; Musketawa State Trail; Fred Meijer Berry Junction Trail; Hart-Montague Bicycle Trail State Park; and Pere Marquette State Trail. The area adjacent to the corridor is utilized for various industrial, retail, and commercial office purposes. The trail will enhance the City's existing riverfront park, and contribute to economic development by adding to the amenities in this redeveloping urban center. A unique feature of the property is an area of accreted land that lies nestled between the railroad grade and the Grand River. Approximately 3.18 acres in size, the vacant parcel is wooded, and provides a great trail amenity. The area is considered valuable floodplain in an urban area and provides important flood control capacity. The acquisition was supported by the Fisheries Division for providing shoreline and riparian corridor protection, as well as established access points for fishing.

#### 23 - Ionia to Lowell Railroad Corridor Purchase

Paralleling the Grand River, the corridor known as the "Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail," extends westerly 15.83 miles from a point east of the City of Ionia in Ionia County, passing through the City of Ionia, the Ionia State Recreation Area, and Saranac to a point near Lowell in Kent County. The east end of the corridor connects to the 41.23 mile-long Ionia to Owosso Railroad corridor, acquired jointly by the Department and the Michigan Department of Transportation in 2007. Collectively the two grades will provide 57 miles of corridor for multi-use recreational trail purposes. The Friends of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail (FFMHT), a 501(c)(3) Corporation, was organized in 1994 to establish a recreational trail using abandoned railroad rights-of-ways in Montcalm and Gratiot Counties. In this instance, the FFMHT assisted when the operating railroad indicated it planned to abandon two rail corridors but chose not to sell them to the State. After acquiring the first corridor that ran between Ionia and Lowell, the FFMHT approached the Department about buying that portion that passes through the Ionia Recreation Area. In the course of the discussions, it was suggested that they would gift the remainder of the corridor once some property management issues were resolved with the railroad on the segment to be gifted. In the end, this transaction consisted of the Department acquiring the eastern 8.47 miles of the 15.83 mile long corridor in 2010, and the FFMHT donating the remaining 7.36 miles in 2012. The FFMHT has

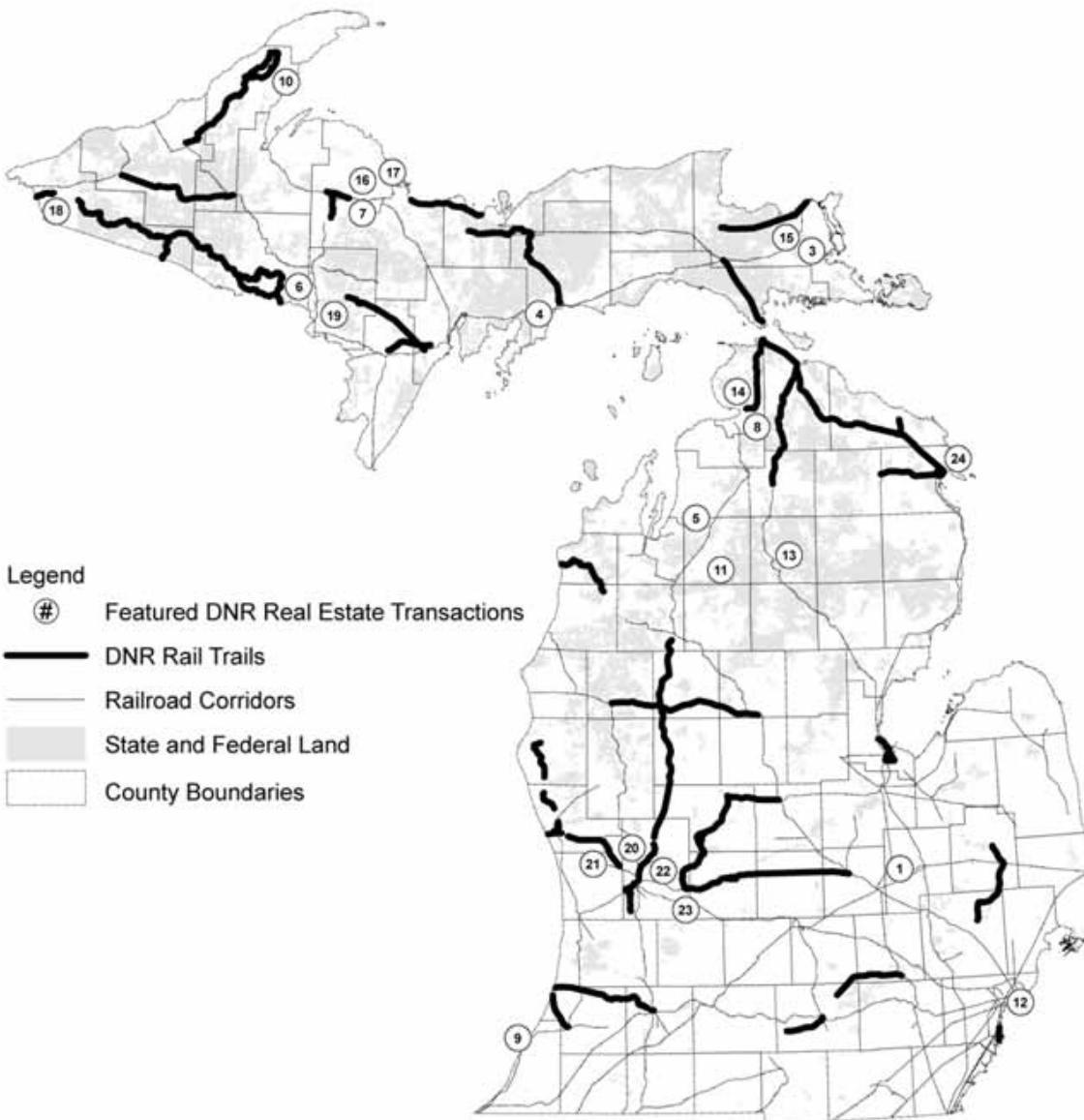
now completed the purchase of the second rail corridor between Lowell and Greenville, and will be donating that 21.88 mile corridor to the Department in 2013.

#### 24 - North Eastern State Trail Connector Purchase

Prior to surfacing the 70-mile long former railroad corridor between Alpena and Cheboygan with crushed limestone, the Department desired to extend the North Eastern State Trail (NEST) one last mile into the City of Alpena. This connector represents an important link between two popular trail systems. At the time the trail was operating under annual license agreements at this location. In 2010, working with three separate entities (Lake State Railway, Alpena Power Company, and Alpena Community College); the Department was able to acquire a short section of the former railroad corridor and two permanent recreational trail easements. With completion of the trail surface improvements and signage, funded through grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Michigan Department of Transportation, the City of Alpena is working to connect its popular 14-mile trail system to the NEST and on to Cheboygan where a connection is made to the 62-mile long North Central State Trail that stretches between Gaylord and Mackinaw City.



Featured DNR Real Estate Transactions  
2008 to 2012



Legend

- # Featured DNR Real Estate Transactions
- DNR Rail Trails
- Railroad Corridors
- State and Federal Land
- County Boundaries



January 10, 2013  
Resource Assessment Unit  
Forest Resources Division  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

## Primary Land Management Tools

State parks and recreation areas, state game and wildlife areas, state forests and state fisheries guided by management plans. The following provides background on those plans and planning efforts.

**State Parks and Recreation Areas:** The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) uses General Management Plans as long-range planning documents for state park and recreation areas. This is a comprehensive planning process based on the National Park Service “General Management Plan” process and adopted by the Department in 2004. Management planning is a defined strategic process within the PRD Strategic Plan (2009). The guidance for the General Management Plan stems from the mission statement of the Department and the Parks and Recreation Division’s mission to “acquire, protect, and preserve the natural and cultural features of Michigan’s unique resources, and to provide access to land and water based public recreation and educational opportunities.” Management plans also take into account other department planning documents and directives as appropriate.

A General Management Plan considers a park’s importance in terms of natural, cultural and historic resources, and recreational and educational opportunities. The management planning process identifies the legal parameters that PRD must be responsive to and includes a thorough analysis of the park, community, and regional resources, and review of the current land ownership and NRC dedicated boundary. A key aspect of the planning process is the development of a Management Zone Plan, which reflects the resource protection goals and recreation development opportunities for different areas within each park. For each management zone identified, individual long-range (10-year) action goals are developed.

Key to the management plan process is active involvement of an internal planning team representing different areas of expertise; stakeholders (including user groups, Friends groups, local and federal government entities, tribal organizations and economic development/ tourism organizations) and the general public. Final approval of the plan rests with the Director of the DNR, with a recommendation to approve from the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee.

**State Game and Wildlife Areas:** The purpose of wildlife project areas is to provide habitat for wildlife populations and public lands for hunting and trapping. Master plans describe the desired future conditions of wildlife areas (for example . in the thumb area of Michigan the desired condition in state game areas is grasslands for pheasants.) and set goals to improve wildlife habitat and the infrastructure for wildlife-related recreational activities. These plans ensure that at any given time, project area managers have the guidance to set management direction, establish operational priorities, and conduct work. The department uses featured species to focus habitat management, monitor its effectiveness, and communicate our

accomplishments. Habitat on wildlife areas is managed to provide sufficient numbers of the targeted featured species to provide hunting opportunities or meet delisting criteria. The department is in the process of developing master plans for each project area and will update these every 10 years. This work is funded by a Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act grant.

**Lands for Angler Opportunity and Habitat Protection:** Statewide angler opportunity and habitat protection goals are provided in Fisheries Division’s Strategic Plan “Charting the Course”. More specific goals are established for the Great Lakes and inland waters. Fish community and habitat objectives are established for lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, and Erie through collaborative efforts under the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. These goals are also discussed with constituents through Great Lake Citizen Fishery Advisory Committees. Goals for inland lakes are established through Fisheries Division’s “Conservation Guidelines for Michigan Lakes and Associated Natural Resources. Status of the Fisheries Reports establishes management actions for both inland lakes and small streams, and River Assessment Reports provide management direction for major watersheds throughout the state. The Coldwater and Warm water Resource Steering Committees provide stakeholders an opportunity to provide input on inland lake and stream management goals.

**State Forests:** The DNR uses a hierarchical, geographic planning framework to coordinate planning activities and guide operational decisions for state forest management. That framework includes a strategic state-level plan (2008 Michigan State Forest Management Plan, or SFMP), three (soon to be approved) operational Regional State Forest Management Plans (RSFMP), and tactical forest management unit-level planning (The aggregate of all forest prescriptions from compartment reviews, which constitute the annual work plan and represent the tactical level of planning for state forest operations). The SFMP and, more specifically, the three RSFMPs, take strategic direction in the form of goals and objectives from other key DNR planning efforts, to better integrate and guide management of state forest land. These other planning documents include, but are not limited to:

- Michigan’s Wildlife Action Plan;
- Master plans for wildlife areas located within the state forest;
- Pigeon River Country Concept of Management;
- Strategy for Kirtland’s Warbler Habitat Management;
- Michigan Deer Management Plan;
- River assessment and river management plans;
- Natural River plans;
- Michigan State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan; and
- Michigan Off-Road Vehicle Plan.

Each of these plans incorporate specific DNR division goals and objectives into an integrated management approach and provides more explicit planning direction and guidelines for specific resource areas. Together, these pieces create a comprehensive state forest management program.

## Real Estate Tools

As a result of land ownership providing a long term and reliable resource that permits the Department to effectively and efficiently carry out the activities that it needs to with limited inefficiencies and maximum flexibility, the Department has relied upon land ownership to further its mission. It is important for decision makers to be able to select from the available real estate tools in order to further the Department's mission. The following is an overview of available real estate tools.

- Fee simple - Ownership of real estate in which the owner has the right to control, use, and transfer the property at will.
- Rights that are less than fee simple
  - Easements - A limited right to make use of a property that is owned by another, does not convey a right to possess the land. Traditional easements include access, pipelines, roadways, driveways, utility lines, flowage, etc
  - Conservation Easements - A restriction on land preventing development on the property in order to retain its natural condition. The restriction will remain on the property for all subsequent property owners.
  - Profits (eg. Timber Leases) - A nonpossessory interest in land similar to the better-known easement, which gives the holder the right to take natural resources such as petroleum, minerals, timber, and wild game from the land of another
  - Mineral rights - The right of the owner of the mineral estate to exploit, mine, and/or produce any or all of the minerals lying below the surface of the property.
  - Restrictive Covenants - a legal obligation imposed in a deed whereby the landowner promises to not to do something. Such restrictions "run with the land" and are enforceable on subsequent buyers of the property.
  - Deed Restrictions - when the Department sells land it can record a restriction on the deed which will place a legal limitation on the use of the land.
  - Land Division Splits - when the Department sells land it can retain splits in order to reduce the likelihood that the land being sold can be split into smaller lots.

## • Contractual Relationships

- Lease - A contract allowing the possession of another's property for a specific timeframe.
- Land Contract - a contract between a seller and buyer of real property in which the seller agrees to sell the property for an agreed-upon purchase price and the buyer pays the seller in installments.

Under a land contract, the seller retains the legal title to the property, while permitting the buyer to take possession.

- Right of First Refusal - a contractual right that gives the holder the option to enter into a real estate transaction with the owner under specified terms, before the owner can enter into a transaction with a third party.

## Payments in Lieu of Tax

To provide a source of revenue for local units of government, the Department of Treasury (Treasury) issues payments in lieu of tax (PILT) to counties and townships on all state owned lands administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). No other state agency makes a PILT payment to local units. PILT provides payment in three primary categories: tax reverted lands, purchased lands, and commercial forest lands. The payment made to the local units of government by Treasury is dependent upon which of these categories the land was acquired.

**Tax Reverted Lands** – Prior to PA 123 of 1999, all lands that went into foreclosure due to delinquent taxes reverted to the State of Michigan and fell under the administration of the DNR. The DNR retains 3.5 million acres of tax reverted lands. By law, the PILT payment for lands within this category is set at \$2 per acre. This payment is issued from the General Fund as appropriated by the Michigan Legislature and is issued to the County for distribution of 50 percent to the County General Fund and 50 percent to the appropriate Township General Fund.

**Purchased Lands** – For all lands purchased by the DNR, Treasury receives a billing statement from each local taxing jurisdiction which provides the amount that is due. Assessments for school districts, community colleges, libraries, etc. are paid from the School Aid Fund. The Department administers one million acres of purchased lands. The PILT payment on lands purchased with Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund is paid entirely through the Trust Fund including the assessments for school districts, community college, libraries, etc. The PILT payment on all other purchased lands is funded 50 percent from the General Fund as appropriated by the Michigan Legislature and 50 percent from restricted funds.

**Commercial Forest Lands** – Private lands enrolled in the Commercial Forest Act (CFA) program are not subject to ad valorem taxes. The CFA program is a tax incentive to private landowners to manage and harvest their timber and provide public access. Private landowners are subject to an annual payment of \$1.25 per acre. Treasury matches the landowner payment of \$1.25 per acre with the payment made from the General Fund. Treasury paid more than \$2.7 million on 2.225 million acres of land currently enrolled in the CFA.

All PILT payments issued by Treasury to local units are subject to spending appropriation by the State Legislature. Treasury is not authorized to make payment until it has been appropriated by the Legislature. For the past few

years the Legislature has not provided full or timely appropriations resulting in reduced and late payments to local units.

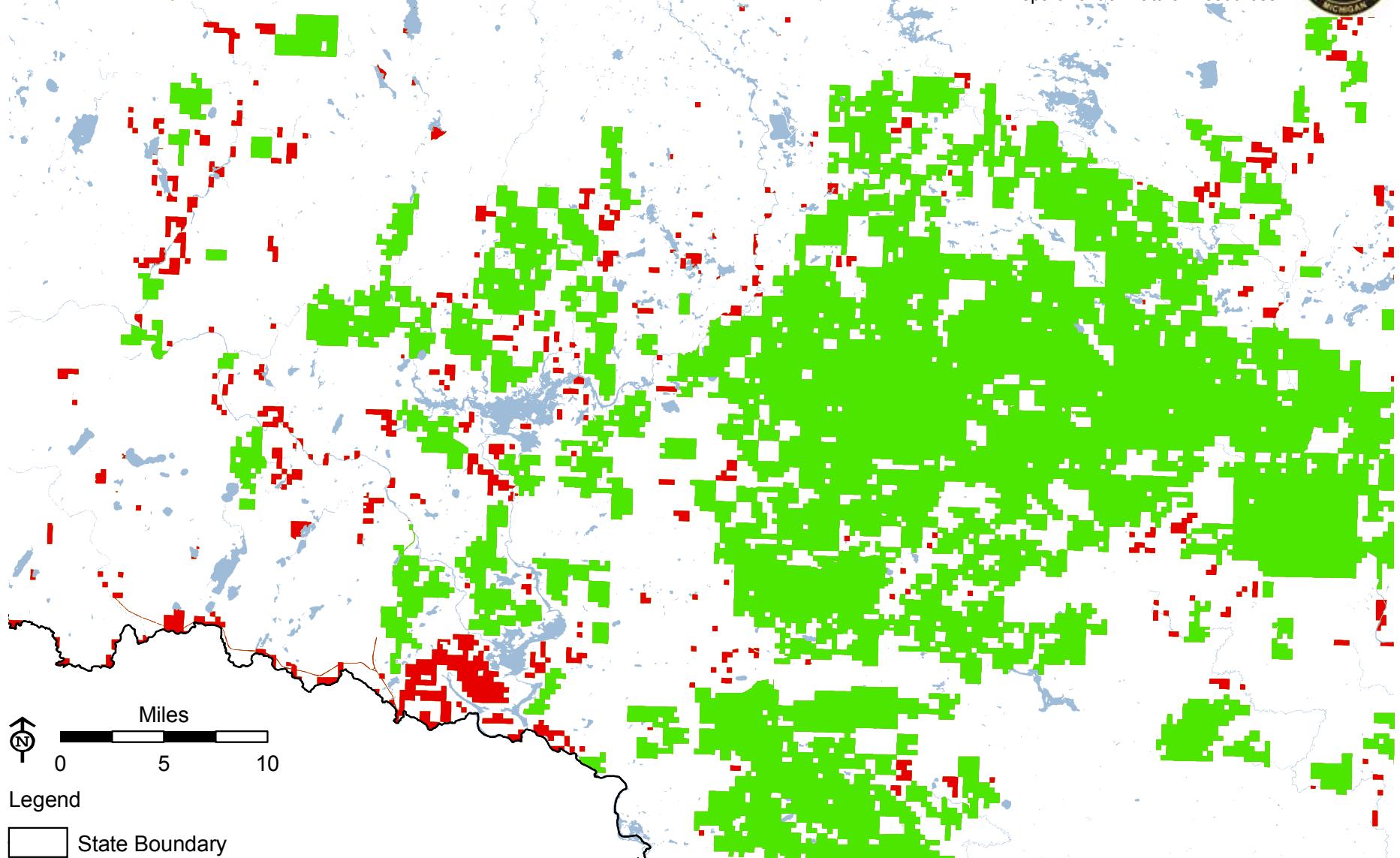
From 2008 to 2012 tax years PILT payments from the state to local units for properties purchased by the Department grew from about \$7.665 million to about \$8.620 million. On a per-acre basis, payments grew 10.4%. Payments for tax-reverted “swampland” parcels, payments grew from \$7.071 million to \$7.072 million. The payment per acre remained at \$2.00. Overall state payments for purchased and tax-reverted land increase 6% on a per-acre basis. During the 2009, 2010, and 2011 tax years, the legislature under-appropriated PILT and payments were pro-rated.

The taxable value for privately owned land in Michigan dropped by over 14% from 2008 to 2012. The value of state purchased lands changes according to the Consumer Price Index, which increased every year except for one over the past decade. This means that state land provides a counter-cyclical revenue source for local governments with state lands.

Future PILT payments for purchased and tax-reverted lands are poised to rise dramatically due to PA 603 and 604 of 2012. The payment per acre for tax-reverted parcels will increase to \$4.00 per acre by December 31st, 2014 and continue to increase at CPI or 5%, whichever is less. PILT for purchased land will be based on the true cash value of the land, or the current method, whichever is greater. This means that land valuations, in instances where purchased property is in desirable locations, will increase more rapidly than before. Valuations for purchased property in undesirable locations will be buffered from decreases and will increase at the rate of the CPI. The payment change for tax-reverted property alone will increase by about \$7 million, or about 50% of total current payments for state owned land.

# Potential Land Aquisition and Disposal Locations

March 1, 2013  
Resource Assessment Unit  
Forest Resources Division  
Department of Natural Resources



## Legend

- State Boundary
- Lakes and Rivers
- Consolidated State Land
- Unconsolidated State Land

Consolidated State Land is defined as being greater than 200 acres and having an area (acres) to perimeter (meters) ratio greater than 236.0483145.

Unconsolidated State Land is defined as being less than 200 acres or having an area (acres) to perimeter (meters) ratio less than 236.0483145.

The area perimeter ratio threshold of 236.0483145 was determined by adding half of one standard deviation to the mean of the area to perimeter ratio frequency distribution.

## Disposal Process

The following provides the process that the DNR utilizes to evaluate DNR-managed lands for disposal and the sale process.

1. Parcels are evaluated using approved disposal criteria and a determination is made whether to:

- Dispose
- Offer to a Conservation Partner
- Retain

The criteria utilized for review includes the following:

- Parcel Funding Source
- Title or Deed Restrictions
- Recreation Trail Review
- Department of Environmental Quality Review
- Mineral Ownership Review
- Cultural and Historic Review

2. The public has an opportunity to comment on parcels identified for disposal or for offer to a conservation partner at a public meeting.

3. Once the first public review has been completed, an internal committee comprised of the land managing divisions provides a recommendation to the Director about disposition of the land.

4. If the parcel is approved for sale by the Director, it is placed on the Natural Resources Commission agenda for public comment and the subsequent month for the Director's decision.

5. After the Director has made a decision to dispose of a parcel the legislature receives notice of the decision and has 30 days in which to respond.

- Notification is to the appropriate House and Senate Committees

6. Notice of intent to dispose of a parcel is at the same time posted on the DNR Website for 30 days for further public comment.

7. After the public and legislative review, surplus land is offered to:

- Local Units
- Conservation Partners
- Private Owners

Parcels will be sold by public competitive auction, exchange, or direct sale. If parcels do not sell, parcels will remain for sale or be transferred to the Michigan Land Bank where appropriate.



## Land Consolidation Acreage Summary

From DNR-NRC Recommendations

County Name	TOTAL ACREAGE REVIEWED			TOTAL PARCELS REVIEWED			RETAIN PARCELS			OFFER PARCELS			DISPOSE PARCELS			RETAIN ACREAGE			OFFER ACREAGE			DISPOSE ACREAGE			LAND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC *	
	REVIEWED	PARCELS	REVIEWED	PARCELS	PARCELS	OFFER	DISPOSE	PARCELS	PARCELS	PARCELS	DISPOSE	PARCELS	PARCELS	PARCELS	ACREAGE	ACREAGE	ACREAGE	ACREAGE	ACREAGE	ACREAGE	ACREAGE	ACREAGE	ACREAGE	OUTSIDE DNR BOUNDARIES (Total Acreage)	INSIDE DNR BOUNDARIES (Total Acreage)	
ALCONA	689.45	52		41	5		6			676.04	1.91				11.50								677.95	8,793		
ALGER	865.14	44		30	1		13			633.80	20.00				211.34								653.80	96,677		
ALLEGAN	606.77	882		359	78		445			537.90	0.00				68.87								537.90	50,561		
ALPENA	1161.65	70		63	0		7			1110.76	0.00				50.89								1,110.76	48,456		
ANTRIM	958.92	68		63	1		4			957.64	1.00				.28								958.64	43,741		
ARENAC	469.33	35		23	0		12			146.97	0.00				322.36								146.97	30,806		
BARAGA	5316.54	193		141	1		51			3581.38	40.00				1695.16								3,621.38	72,635		
BARRY	292.26	47		42	0		5			166.34	0.00				125.92								166.34	24,881		
BAY	404.57	49		22	4		23			172.02	3.17				229.38								175.19	6,717		
BENZIE	725.63	50		42	2		6			657.53	24.73				43.37								682.26	60,457		
BERRIEN	217.08	91		38	10		43			143.87	65.37				7.84								209.24	2,560		
BRANCH	66.24	43		32	3		8			54.74	0.00				11.50								54.74	398		
CALHOUN	175.44	36		28	0		8			73.46	0.00				101.98								73.46	0		
CASS	90.09	38		30	6		2			38.80	51.29				0.00								90.09	4,193		
CHARLEVOIX	509.77	50		21	13		16			288.54	220.87				.36								509.41	58,271		
CHEBOYGAN	2734.89	192		138	7		47			1895.87	19.22				819.80								1,915.09	180,798		
CHIPPEWA	2929.45	216		120	18		78			1467.45	448.29				1013.71								1,915.74	216,772		
CLARE	1089.75	61		45	0		16			663.18	0.00				426.57								663.18	52,152		
CLINTON	7.80	3		3	0		0			7.80	0.00				0.00								7.80	10,608		
CRAWFORD	3119.46	169		84	3		82			1618.02	45.23				1456.21								1,663.25	175,880		
DELTA	1280.43	113		65	17		31			743.43	65.00				472.00								808.43	66,517		
DICKINSON	1575.52	135		65	0		70			877.00	0.00				698.52								877.00	221,733		
EATON	156.40	19		11	6		2			141.16	15.24				0.00								156.40	180		
EMMET	1278.91	49		40	3		6			1153.16	81.20				44.55								1,234.36	76,210		
GENESEE	242.83	71		14	0		57			187.79	0.00				55.04								187.79	0		

\* Please Note: This report does not include Rail Trail parcels, Linear State Park parcels and Platted parcels. Therefore, there is more land open to the public than is listed on this report.

County Name	TOTAL ACREAGE REVIEWED			TOTAL PARCELS REVIEWED			RETAIN PARCELS			OFFER PARCELS			DISPOSE PARCELS			RETAIN ACREAGE			OFFER ACREAGE			DISPOSE ACREAGE			LAND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC *	
	OUTSIDE DNR BOUNDARIES (Total Acreage)	INSIDE DNR BOUNDARIES (Total Acreage)																								
GLADWIN	602.84	34		15	2	17				333.68	80.00		189.16			413.68			85,956							
GOGEBIC	735.69	75		23	17	35				129.60	380.00		226.09			509.60			10,720							
GRAND TRAVERSE	312.40	64		51	4	9				278.82	25.50		8.08			304.32			67,961							
GRATIOT	89.00	7		5	2	0				76.00	13.00		0.00			89.00			16,870							
HILLSDALE	32.51	26		22	1	3				18.40	0.00		14.11			18.40			3,391							
HOUGHTON	1345.98	101		55	1	45				934.43	40.17		371.38			974.60			43,876							
HURON	299.41	22		20	1	1				298.16	0.00		1.25			298.16			13,856							
INGHAM	241.72	18		10	5	3				135.48	106.23		.01			241.71			4,735							
IONIA	376.16	33		21	3	9				342.40	15.87		17.89			358.27			10,741							
IOSCO	564.26	81		61	13	7				306.36	235.90		22.00			542.26			23,668							
IRON	5598.02	359		215	46	98				3369.37	1166.54		1062.11			4,535.91			79,498							
ISABELLA	8.71	7		5	0	2				4.71	0.00		4.00			4.71			2,967							
JACKSON	1173.32	259		120	2	137				1090.17	16.94		66.21			1,107.11			16,242							
KALAMAZOO	451.82	71		62	3	6				429.90	.99		20.93			430.89			5,772							
KALKASKA	882.18	164		151	1	12				822.54	40.00		19.64			862.54			157,651							
KENT	536.56	110		99	0	11				536.32	0.00		.24			536.32			7,950							
KEWEENAW	654.98	70		62	0	8				334.98	0.00		320.00			334.98			10,557							
LAKE	1643.34	829		108	0	721				1002.74	0.00		640.60			1,002.74			58,929							
LAPEER	343.21	23		18	0	5				343.21	0.00		0.00			343.21			12,574							
LEELANAU	24.25	18		15	1	2				20.90	0.00		3.35			20.90			8,431							
LENAWEE	206.64	26		23	0	3				166.64	0.00		40.00			166.64			4,106							
LIVINGSTON	260.09	60		42	1	17				132.27	0.00		127.82			132.27			17,814							
LUCE	659.04	30		28	1	1				579.04	40.00		40.00			619.04			296,581							
MACKINAC	1667.84	299		95	21	183				700.51	166.95		800.38			867.46			202,770							
MACOMB	233.88	170		18	2	150				183.93	0.00		49.95			183.93			1,009							
MANISTEE	356.26	101		31	41	29				348.23	1.00		7.03			349.23			23,868							
MARQUETTE	4971.52	242		202	0	40				4091.87	0.00		879.65			4,091.87			255,611							
MASON	1607.06	86		20	47	19				123.57	1446.82		36.67			1,570.39			5,122							
MECOSTA	153.26	32		24	0	8				146.94	0.00		6.32			146.94			14,271							

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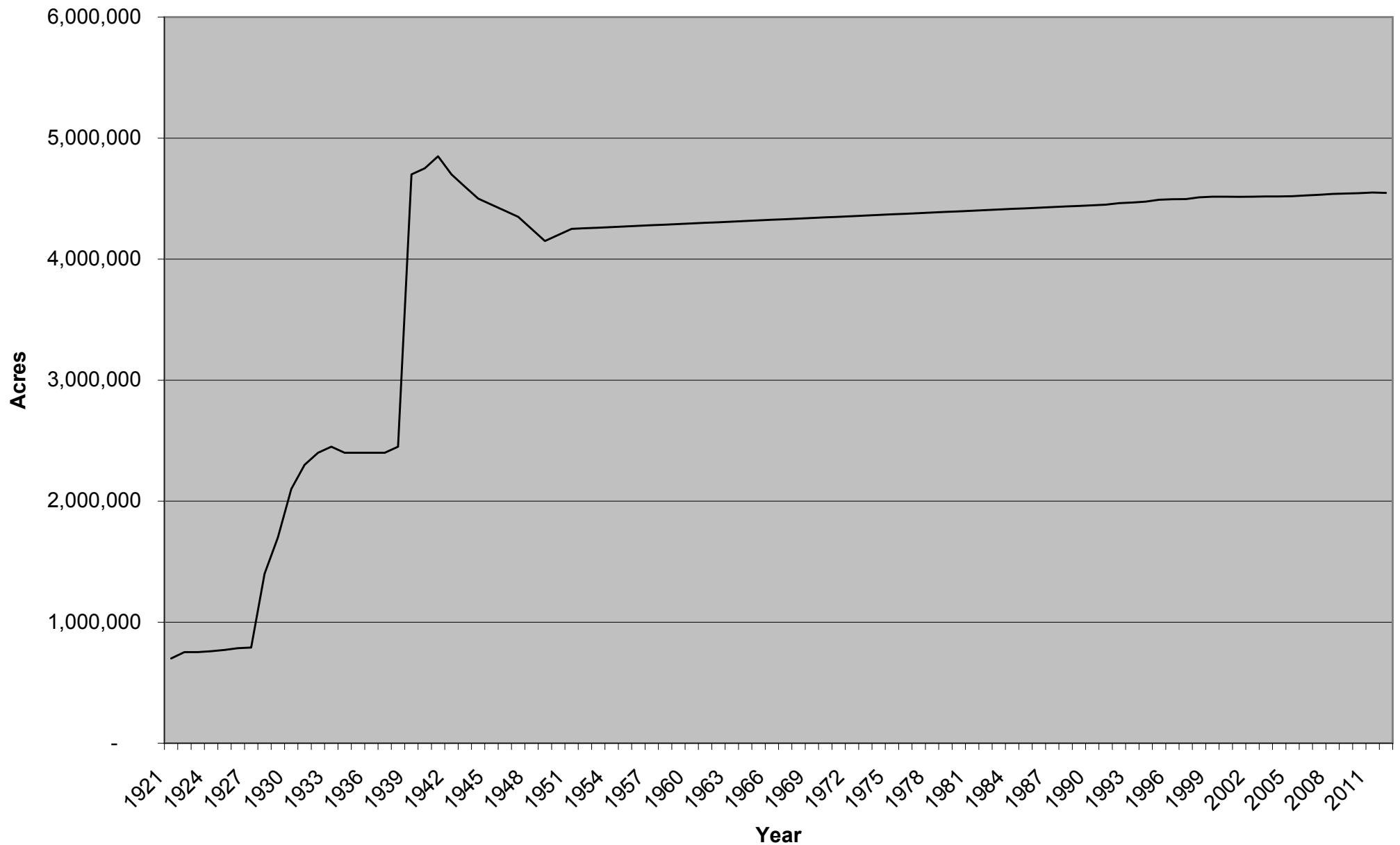
County Name	TOTAL ACREAGE REVIEWED	TOTAL PARCELS REVIEWED	RETAIN PARCELS	OFFER PARCELS	DISPOSE PARCELS	RETAIN ACREAGE	OFFER ACREAGE	DISPOSE ACREAGE	LAND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC *	
									OUTSIDE DNR BOUNDARIES (Total Acreage)	INSIDE DNR BOUNDARIES (Total Acreage)
MENOMINEE	2583.83	94	51	0	43	1206.07	0.00	1377.76	1,206.07	95,116
MIDLAND	1439.38	68	22	3	43	593.82	33.26	812.30	627.08	41,383
MISSAUKEE	426.99	21	17	0	4	409.79	0.00	17.20	409.79	103,659
MONROE	351.31	72	65	0	7	350.71	0.00	.60	350.71	6,374
MONTCALM	184.11	50	39	3	8	181.35	.97	1.79	182.32	22,636
MONTMORENCY	578.47	33	31	0	2	577.54	0.00	.93	577.54	136,992
MUSKEGON	211.90	71	23	0	48	167.82	0.00	44.08	167.82	11,683
NEWAYGO	1017.89	939	94	0	845	934.97	0.00	82.92	934.97	5,828
OAKLAND	1814.84	327	196	42	89	1174.45	28.00	612.39	1,202.45	28,580
OCEANA	304.09	47	13	6	28	222.98	61.86	19.25	284.84	5,284
OGEMAW	1493.91	77	63	7	7	1181.15	239.05	73.71	1,420.20	75,616
ONTONAGON	624.68	68	23	6	39	228.44	80.07	316.17	308.51	66,947
OSCEOLA	1901.40	81	73	0	8	1717.62	0.00	183.78	1,717.62	16,855
OSCODA	470.88	37	33	2	2	463.63	7.00	.25	470.63	55,658
OTSEGO	567.74	83	80	0	3	567.74	0.00	0.00	567.74	99,296
OTTAWA	308.97	41	34	5	2	241.34	67.63	0.00	308.97	3,427
PRESQUE ISLE	1057.56	61	50	1	10	771.39	.34	285.83	771.73	86,528
ROSCOMMON	6384.79	783	723	5	55	5938.68	190.22	255.89	6,128.90	196,745
SAGINAW	338.42	45	6	4	35	298.21	.06	40.15	298.27	16,874
SAINT CLAIR	124.81	92	42	2	48	104.72	0.00	20.09	104.72	9,635
SAINT JOSEPH	98.16	42	37	2	3	60.76	2.00	35.40	62.76	2,251
SANILAC	3.32	9	7	2	0	3.32	0.00	0.00	3.32	9,865
SCHOOLCRAFT	1721.34	171	103	2	66	1552.80	12.81	155.73	1,565.61	288,272
SHIAWASSEE	42.60	4	2	0	2	40.80	0.00	1.80	40.80	893
TUSCOLA	318.55	14	13	0	1	318.55	0.00	0.00	318.55	30,958
VAN BUREN	193.42	97	67	2	28	175.07	2.00	16.35	177.07	795
WASHTENAW	1099.88	75	58	3	14	996.38	4.18	99.32	1,000.56	16,262
WAYNE	167.45	105	10	0	95	137.50	0.00	29.95	137.50	1,464
WEXFORD	200.68	31	16	4	11	183.39	3.00	14.29	186.39	54,115

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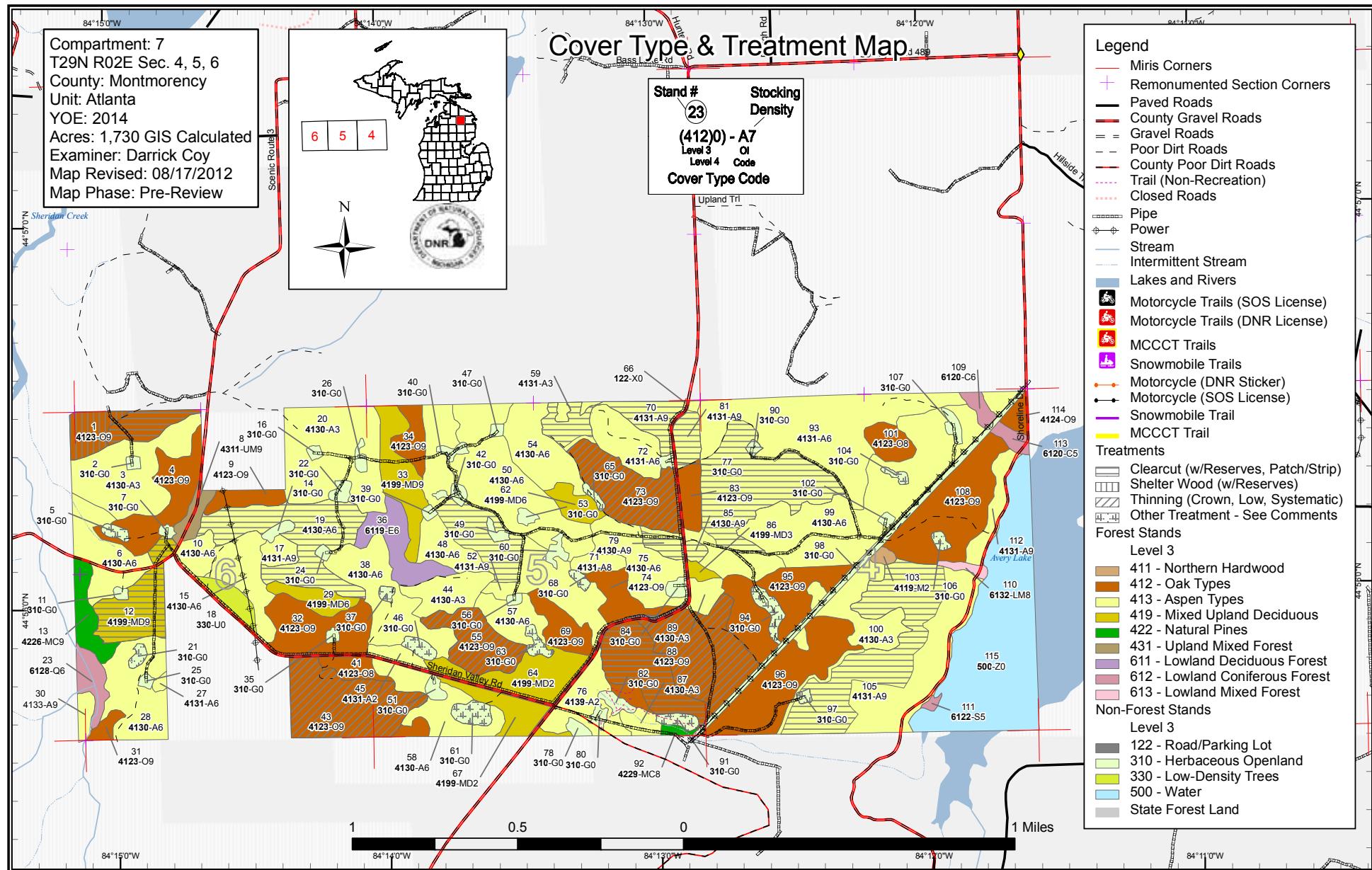
County Name	TOTAL ACREAGE REVIEWED			TOTAL PARCELS REVIEWED			RETAIN PARCELS			OFFER PARCELS			DISPOSE PARCELS			RETAIN ACREAGE			OFFER ACREAGE			DISPOSE ACREAGE			LAND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC *	
	OUTSIDE DNR BOUNDARIES (Total Acreage)	INSIDE DNR BOUNDARIES (Total Acreage)																								
<b>Totals</b>	<b>79,027.64</b>	<b>9,831</b>		<b>5,172</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>4,165</b>		<b>56,076.81</b>	<b>5,610.88</b>	<b>17,339.95</b>		<b>71.0%</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>21.9%</b>		<b>61,687.69</b>			<b>4,463,484</b>			<b>78.1%</b>				
				<b>52.6%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>42.4%</b>																				

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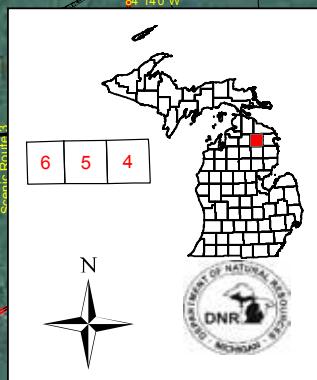
## Public Trust Land Managed by the Department



Example of a state forest compartment and activities associated with it

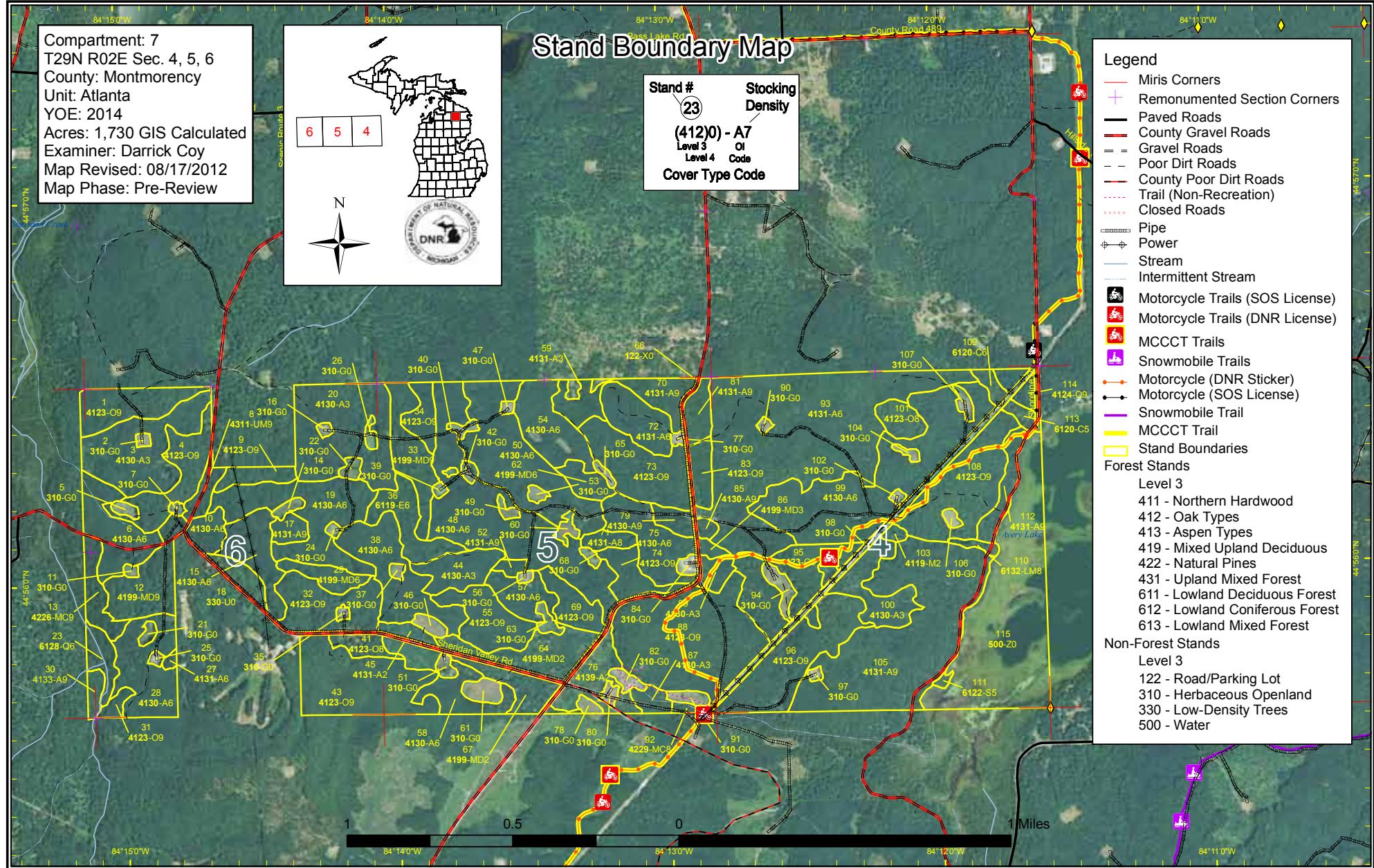


Compartment: 7  
T29N R02E Sec. 4, 5, 6  
County: Montmorency  
Unit: Atlanta  
YOE: 2014  
Acres: 1,730 GIS Calculated  
Examiner: Darrick Coy  
Map Revised: 08/17/2012  
Map Phase: Pre-Review

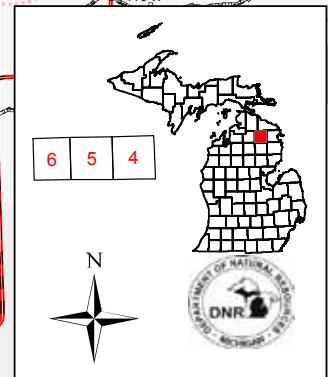


# Stand Boundary Map

Stand # 23 Stocking Density  
(412)0 - A7  
Level 3 OI  
Level 4 Code  
Cover Type Code



Compartment: 7  
T29N R02E Sec. 4, 5, 6  
County: Montmorency  
Unit: Atlanta  
YOE: 2014  
Acres: 1,730 GIS Calculated  
Examiner: Darrick Coy  
Map Revised: 08/17/2012  
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## Cover Type & Treatment Map

Stand # 23 Stocking Density  
 (412)0 - A7  
 Level 3 OI  
 Level 4 Code  
 Cover Type Code

