

Michigan’s 4 million acres of state-managed forest land are part of a 20-million-acre statewide forest resource. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Forest Resources Division professionally manages this system to provide thriving wildlife habitat, clean air and water, world-class forest recreation opportunities and materials for a bustling forest products industry.

Programs supporting urban forestry, private landowners, forest health, forest industry, wildfire suppression and prevention, and wildlife habitat improvement ensure Michigan’s forests will be around for future generations to enjoy in as many ways as we do today.



MANAGING YOUR STATE FORESTS

DNR foresters, recreation specialists and wildlife and fisheries biologists work together to manage state forests and keep them healthy. For the past 11 years, two independent, third-party organizations (the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® and the Forest Stewardship Council®) have certified the DNR’s management practices are sustainable.

The DNR carefully plans every harvest, tree planting and prescribed burn to meet certain objectives, like regenerating the forest, controlling invasive species, removing hazardous wildfire fuels or improving wildlife habitat.

Forest Resources and Wildlife divisions work very closely together to ensure wildlife habitat is maintained. The DNR might harvest or conduct a prescribed burn to create essential forest openings for species like elk, pheasant and American woodcock. In 2016, 1.2 million jack pine seedlings were planted to provide habitat for the endangered Kirtland’s warbler. The DNR also planted more than 18,000 oak trees in areas affected by beech bark disease in an effort to replace a lost food source for wildlife. In total, 6.5 million tree seedlings were planted on 6,000 acres of state forest land.

Michigan’s state-managed public forest land also continues to make a strong contribution to the state’s forest products industry. In fiscal year 2016, the DNR prepared 61,208 acres of timber sales on state-managed land that produced 1.1 million cords of wood. The state received \$45 million in timber sale revenue. The forest products industry contributes \$20 billion per year to Michigan’s economy, supports 96,000 jobs and supplies residents with the wood products they use every day.

GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY

For the first time in 2016, the DNR assisted the U.S. Forest Service with projects on national forest land. The DNR prepared 1,300 acres of timber for sale in the Ottawa, Hiawatha and Huron-Manistee national forests as part of the Good Neighbor Authority. In addition to providing 20,000 cords of timber for the forest products industry, the projects improved forest health and wildlife habitat.



PRIVATE LANDS FORESTRY

- Michigan’s urban forests provide important aesthetic, environmental, social and economic benefits to all citizens. They improve air and water quality, reduce storm water runoff, reduce heating and cooling costs and have been linked to health benefits. In 2016, the DNR assisted 44 communities by awarding more than \$304,000 in grants to support urban forests.
- Forest Stewardship is a cost-sharing program that provides technical assistance to private landowners who manage their forest land. This year, 296 landowners developed forest management plans for 46,000 acres of Michigan forest land.
- The Commerical Forest Program offers private forest landowners a tax incentive in exchange for managing their forests for long-term timber production. The 2.2 million acres of land also is available to the public for hunting, fishing and trapping.

PROTECTING YOUR RESOURCES

This year, the DNR Fire Program:

- Helped save 199 structures through suppression action on 243 fires that took place on a total of 3,127 acres of state and private forest land.
- Improved wildlife habitat, controlled invasive species, reduced hazardous fuels and promoted forest regeneration by performing 75 prescribed burns on 8,169 acres.
- Provided wildfire training to 1,900 local firefighters and cooperators.



STREAM CROSSINGS

The DNR is working to ensure culverts and bridges are installed on state forest land in order to keep Michigan’s thousands of miles of streams, rivers and wetlands safe. Proper stream crossings reduce erosion, keep sediment and other pollutants out of streams and improve fish habitat. They also provide better access to the forest for everyone - from hikers to hunters to foresters.

FOREST HEALTH

- Michigan’s oak trees provide food for animals, benefits for cities and neighborhoods, and wood for the forest products industry. Oak wilt is an invasive forest pest killing oaks across the state. In 2016, the DNR facilitated the treatment of oak wilt infections on both public and private land.
- Hemlock woolly adelgid, a tiny, white insect that can kill hemlock trees, was found in west Michigan in 2015. Hemlock trees provide food and shelter for fish and wildlife in addition to being a common landscape tree. Forest health experts are focused on identifying new infestations and working to protect the valuable hemlock resource.
- DNR foresters continue to identify areas of the Upper Peninsula that have been affected by spruce budworm, a native forest pest that periodically defoliates white spruce and balsam fir trees.

To learn more about the health of the state forest system, check out the 2016 Forest Health Highlights report by visiting www.michigan.gov/foresthealth.



PARTNERS

Forest Resources Division works with many partners to ensure that Michigan's state forest land is sustainably managed to meet the needs of residents, tourists, businesses, and the many wildlife species that thrive in the woods. The division would not be able to accomplish its goals without the support, funding, expertise and dedication of its partners. Their support is invaluable.



Through the help of the American Tree Farm System, the Michigan Forest Products Council and Project Learning Tree, the DNR created Wheels to Woods in 2016. The program funds school transportation costs, enabling students and teachers to take field trips to local forests. In its first year, Wheels to Woods awarded more than \$36,000 to help over 9,000 students, teachers and parents visit forest land on 102 educational field trips.



Through DNR programs, local fire departments are able to obtain excess federal equipment, including fire trucks, pumps and generators. In 2016, the DNR awarded \$5.2 million in excess federal equipment and awarded grants worth more than \$300,000 to purchase communications and suppression equipment. The programs also have enabled the DNR to build strong relationships with local fire departments – especially important for wildland fire suppression efforts.

Together with the Marquette County Convention & Visitors Bureau, the DNR is compiling trail information to assist in making Michigan “The Trails State.” Using Marquette County as a pilot, and partnering with community trail groups, this project seeks to compile data on all recreational trails – not just those maintained by the DNR.

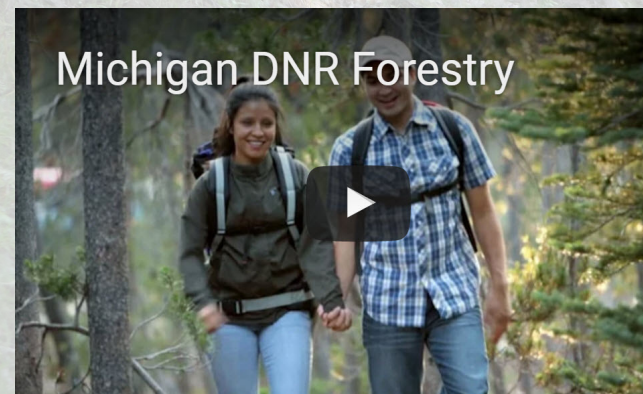


The DNR Forest Resources Division manages, protects and provides for the sustainable use of Michigan's forest resources. Its vision is for vital, healthy and abundant forests that provide social, economic and ecological benefits.

Sign up for email from the DNR.
Current forestry-related topics include:

- Forest Health
- Forest Planning
- Urban and Community Forestry
- Assistance to Private Forest Landowners
- Prescribed Burn Notices
- Wildfire Incident Updates

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The Forest Resources Division is mainly funded by the Forest Development Fund which is primarily comprised of the revenue generated from the sale of timber. The remainder of the budget is comprised of general funds, state restricted funds, federal funds, and donations from private entities.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. Learn more about how we're working to manage your forests at www.michigan.gov/forestry

Forest Resources Division Fiscal Year 2016

ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT

