



HABITAT, HARVESTS AND SO MUCH MORE

From the featherweight Kirtland's warbler to a 900-pound elk, ensuring healthy forests and habitat for Michigan's wildlife are important tasks for the Forest Resources Division. It carefully manages harvests, tree planting and prescribed burns to balance the forest with appropriate habitat. During 2017, the DNR planted about 1.2 million seedlings on 900 acres to provide new jack pine growth to accommodate the nesting habits of the Kirtland's warbler's. Also planted: an additional 5.1 million seedlings on 6,000 additional acres of state land.

The same planned harvests that provide habitat for wildlife also help Michigan's forest products industry to thrive. During 2017, 60,012 acres of state forest land were prepared for timber harvests that yielded more than 1.1 million cords of wood, and the state received \$50 million in timber revenue. The forest products industry contributes \$21.2 billion per year to Michigan's economy, supports 99,000 jobs and creates one-third of the manufacturing jobs in the Upper Peninsula.

HONORS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Michigan's forest management practices meet the highest standards for environmental and social benefits, and the DNR has an award to prove it. It is among 16 organizations and individuals in 2017 to earn Leadership Awards from the Forest Stewardship Council, the world's leading forest certification system. The DNR is one of the longest-standing FSC-certified forest managers in the Lake States region. FSC certification involves a rigorous, independent review of forest management. Michigan is certified by both the FSC and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Learn more about the DNR's efforts at www.michigan.gov/forestry.



FOREST HEALTH

Beech bark disease: Volunteers planted more than 200 disease-resistant beech trees in Ludington State Park in October. Beech trees provide food to help birds and other wildlife survive Michigan winters. The 3-year-old, 3- to 6-foot trees, from a U.S. Forest Service lab in Ohio, are expected to be up to 50 percent more resistant to the fungal disease that has killed an estimated 2.5 million of Michigan's 32 million beech trees since its discovery in Ludington in 2000. The DNR's Forest Resources and Wildlife divisions provided funding for the development of the trees. Beech bark disease has been widely identified throughout the northwest Lower Peninsula and the eastern and central Upper Peninsula, including Tahquamenon Falls State Park.



Hemlock woolly adelgid: Efforts continued to stem the movement of the hemlock woolly adelgid, discovered in four west Michigan counties (Allegan, Muskegon, Oceana, and Ottawa) in 2015. Michigan's 176 million hemlock trees provide important winter cover for wildlife. The tiny, sap-sucking insect covers hemlock needles with a white, waxy substance. Infestation can weaken trees and lead to death. A dedicated survey of state forest, park and game areas was conducted and the insect was found and treated in five state park locations. The coordinated statewide strategy includes detection, treatment and research, paving the way for biological controls. It also includes an outreach and communication plan.

OUTREACH

Raising awareness about Michigan's sustainable forestry efforts is the focus of a new public information campaign developed with a Lansing marketing firm. The plan is based on statewide research. The first phase targeted southeast Michigan in the fall, using the slogan "A tree for life, forests for a lifetime," and a look derived from unique, animated paper cuts. Content included TV ads, digital video streaming, paid stories in the Detroit News and Free Press, ads on Pandora Radio and digital and social ads. Results so far are encouraging. For example, readers spent 2.5 more time than average with the forestry-related News and Free Press stories. Additional research in summer 2018 will help focus and fine-tune the message going forward. Check out the website and video spots at www.michigan.gov/forestsforalifetime.



PARTNERSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERS

Good Neighbor Authority: DNR staffers prepared 1,604 acres of timber for sale in Michigan's three national forests, an effort that yielded more than 28,000 cords of wood. That's an increase over 2017, the first year of the joint effort. That amount is expected to nearly double for 2018. Projects completed also improved forest health and wildlife habitat.

Tree Improvement Center seed harvest: An army of volunteers turned out to help harvest jack pine cones at the Tree Improvement Center near Brighton in the fall, an effort that will provide seedlings to plant across the state. About 33 acres of overgrown jack pines, planted as a seed orchard, were harvested because they had outlived their purpose. The seed orchard itself will be replanted, but on a staggered schedule so it will contain trees of varying ages.

COOPERATIVE FORESTRY PROGRAMS

Urban and Community Forestry: A total of 48 communities in Michigan will get the chance to plant trees, celebrate Arbor Day and study urban tree canopies thanks to urban and community forestry programs administered by the DNR. A total of 52 grants were funded, totaling \$427,718 in money from federal and private funds.

The Michigan Forest Stewardship Program: Twelve million acres of private forest land across the state provide wood, water, recreation and homes for wildlife. During 2017, the DNR and U.S. Forest Service partnered with conservation groups, certification programs, foresters, loggers, teachers, fisheries biologists and landowners to enhance Michigan's private forest lands. The program also completed a two-year project to develop nine landscape plans spanning 16 counties that showcased stories of more than 100 landowners doing innovative forest stewardship in their region.



Forest Legacy Program: To date, 154,667 acres of working forest have been protected through the program. This ensures public access to the lands now and in the future for hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and bird watching. The latest parcel added to the program: 1,107 acres in a conservation easement adjacent to the Pilgrim River Forest in Houghton County.





PROTECTING YOUR RESOURCES

Due to wet weather, particularly in northern Michigan, wildland fires in the state were down substantially, with 175 fires burning 566 acres in 2017. By comparison, the 10-year-average is 6,953 acres. But no firefighters sat idle!

To create wildlife habitat and remove invasive species such as phragmites, DNR staff completed nearly 9,140 acres of prescribed burns during 2017, largely in southern Michigan.



DNR staff also gained valuable experience and provided their own unique skills on more than 110 assignments across the country including Florida, Georgia, Arizona, Washington, Nevada, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Oregon, Idaho, California and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Ontario. Engine crews drove three DNR trucks to Montana to battle fires. The state is fully reimbursed for out-of-state fire assistance. DNR equipment was also used to assist during flooding in central Michigan.

The DNR spent more than \$1.6 million on replacement fire equipment to help firefighters protect people and property, even on hard-to-navigate wildland terrain. Coming into service over the next two years will be a variety of engines, including two marsh engines for swampy terrain, all-terrain utility vehicles, portable pumps and radios.



FOREST ROAD INVENTORY

To allow ORV users more access to state forests, the DNR's Forest Resources Division employees inventoried and mapped more than 7,600 miles of state forest roads in the northern Lower Peninsula as required by Public Act 288 of 2016. Forest roads allow DNR professionals to

access lands for timber harvest, fire protection and wildlife management. They also provide the public with access for activities like hunting, fishing and camping. Following an extensive public input process with nearly 2,000 responses, the department proposed which of these roads would be opened to ORV use. About 6,300 miles of roads in the northern Lower Peninsula now are open, while about 1,200 miles remain closed. This inventory process will continue in 2018, focusing on state lands in the Upper Peninsula and southern Lower Peninsula. Maps and more information are at www.michigan.gov/forestroads.



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.

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.



www.michigan.gov/forestsforalifetime

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Forest Resources Division Fiscal Year 2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT

