


Wildlife Division
Annual Report
2018



Dr. Russ Mason, Chief

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2019



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2010 - 2018 Annual Reports
9 years



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Most of the information in this report is for fiscal year 2018, which is October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018

HELLO,

If you're thinking in packing up and reading the Wildlife Division's annual report, we have been publishing an annual report for some years and I believe it is the perfect vehicle to highlight the work we do for wildlife and the people of Michigan.


This year's report is a bit different than previous years, and we have taken the opportunity to highlight our work within the regions, sections, and units that make up the Wildlife Division. All of our efforts are guided by the Division's Strategic Plan (SP16). For that reason, in the featured section, you will see a breakdown of fund expenditures by each of our strategic plan goals.

Not surprisingly, despite accomplishing many important tasks for wildlife conservation, a significant amount of our effort focused on wildlife diseases, especially avian influenza. In order to accomplish what needed to be done, the Wildlife Division received help from across the entire department, especially from the divisions of Inland and Outwash and Law Enforcement. Among other things, staff worked tirelessly to check dead in the field, process samples for testing at the Wildlife Laboratory and answer calls and emails from concerned hunters. Our goal was and continues to be the protection of the deer, moose and Michigan's cherished hunting traditions.

Not highlighted in this annual report are our new Wetland Mitigation Banking Program, and our efforts to support passage of the Secretary of America's Wildlife Act at the federal level. Both of these activities are pointed at identifying new ways to fund wildlife conservation in the 21st century. These new ways are increasingly important as the existing land sources - hunting licenses and Pittman-Robertson funds - continue to decline. Suffice it to say, Wildlife Division is committed to ensuring that Michigan's outstanding wildlife resources will be conserved for the use and enjoyment of all, now and for generations to come.

Again, heartfelt thanks for your support of Michigan's wildlife! Your tax dollars and involvement are truly appreciated. It is an honor and a privilege to serve you and to provide the best possible science-based recommendations to promote your interests.

Sincerely,
Drew



Dr. Ross Mendenhall
Chief, Wildlife Division

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2018 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Wildlife Division

The Wildlife Division plans work according to specific strategic plan goals. Below are the amount spent for each goal.


FUNDS

EXPENDITURES BY FUND	
General Fund	\$296,646
Federal (Avian)	10,000,446
Federal (Conservation)	1,721,997
Game & Fish	11,629,589
DMF	1,882,288
Permit	276,148
Nonstate	253,191
Other State Funds	1,265,735
Total	46,265,140

GOALS

EXPENDITURES BY GOAL	
Goal 1	12,316,271
Goal 2	13,076,689
Goal 3	1,099,296
Goal 4	1,121,361
Goal 5	4,264,887
Goal 6	11,374,193
Goal 7	382,743
Total	46,265,140

- Goal 1: Manage for healthy and sustainable populations of wildlife.
- Goal 2: Manage habitat for sustainable wildlife populations and wildlife-based recreation.
- Goal 3: Administer and promote effective stewardship of lands for wildlife habitat and wildlife-based recreation.
- Goal 4: Enhance sustainable wildlife-based recreation use and enjoyment.
- Goal 5: Improve and maintain public communication, strong relationships, and partnerships.
- Goal 6: Foster and adopt effective business practices.
- Goal 7: Develop and implement systems that lead to continuous improvement in how we work.



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Special Report

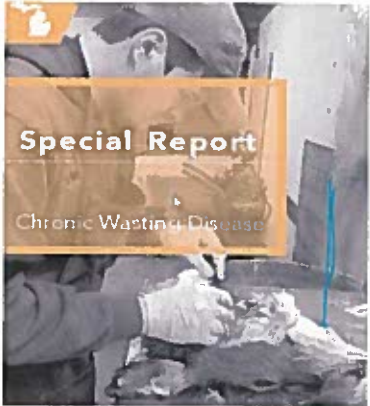
<30,000 deer tested

Incredible partnerships

Processors

Taxidermists

Hunters



Special Report

Chronic Wasting Disease

CWD

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurodegenerative disease that affects certain species of deer and elk. The disease is caused by a protein called a prion that accumulates in the brain and spinal cord, leading to a progressive decline in the animal's health. In humans, a similar disease called variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) is caused by a prion that accumulates in the brain and spinal cord, leading to a progressive decline in the animal's health.


In January 2017, a team of researchers from the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced that they had identified a new strain of CWD in a deer in Minnesota. This strain is distinct from the other strains of CWD that have been identified in Minnesota and is believed to have originated in the United States.

The researchers found that the new strain of CWD is highly contagious and can be transmitted between deer and elk. They also found that the new strain is more resistant to heat and other treatments that are used to destroy prions. This means that the new strain could be more difficult to control than other strains of CWD.

The researchers are currently working to determine the source of the new strain and to develop strategies to prevent its spread. They are also working to educate hunters and the public about the risks of CWD and how to prevent the disease from spreading.

Key findings:

- Identified a new strain of CWD in a deer in Minnesota
- The new strain is highly contagious and can be transmitted between deer and elk
- The new strain is more resistant to heat and other treatments that are used to destroy prions
- The researchers are currently working to determine the source of the new strain and to develop strategies to prevent its spread

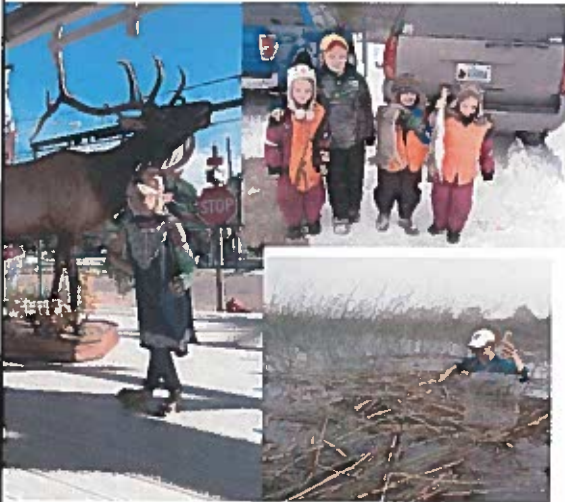



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Regional Highlights

- Elk 100th Anniversary
- Black Tern Research
- Youth Recruitment efforts

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Section Highlights

Bear and Elk Transfer Program

Education Curriculum

Wildlife Disease Surveillance

Wildlife Classroom Curricula

During the 2017-18 school year, five different wildlife curricula were offered for kindergarten through high school students.

- 1 Go Wild for Michigan's Wildlife (K - 5th grades) had 617 educators register to participate reaching over 4,500 students.
- 2 During Sleep Camp 2017 (2nd - 4th grades) 14 educators reached approximately 4,000 students.
- 3 Michigan Woodcock Woodcock and Waterfowl (6 - 8th grades) had 65 educators registered reaching over 4,500 students.
- 4 All in for Michigan's Wildlife (9 - 12th grades) had 10 educators registered reaching over 1,000 students.
- 5 Elk University curriculum (9 - 12th grades) had over 100 high school students participating under instruction of 133 educators.



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Thank you!



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