



# MICHIGAN UNITED *Since 1937* CONSERVATION CLUBS

*Uniting Citizens to Conserve, Protect and Enhance Michigan's Natural Resources and Outdoor Heritage*  
PO Box 30235 Lansing, MI 48909 | 800.777.6720 P | www.mucc.org

## 2018 Annual Convention Results Policy Resolutions

- 1. PASSED: ADEQUATELY FUND UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE, NATIONAL PARKS, AND NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND REDUCE TORT LIABILITY (Tim Kobasic, Hiawathaland Trail Association and Straits Area Sportsmen's Club)**

MUCC calls on Congress to amend the budget of the USFS to help offset the costs of fire suppression and help them maintain their fundamental services. MUCC would also ask Congress to pass legislation that will assure the USFS and their sponsors adequate funds in the event of a lawsuit from those that use the National Forests for recreation. Lastly, ensure that all National Forests, Parks, and National Monuments remain intact and continue to allow public access.

- 3. PASSED: ESTABLISH REGULATIONS ON THE OPERATION OF WAKE BOATS (Diane Konneck, Individual Member)**

MUCC will work with the legislature, DNR, and NRC to create regulations restricting the use of boats that produce a wake large enough to surf or wakeboard to larger lakes and areas further from the shore than the current rules allow.

- 4. PASSED AS AMENDED: MUCC WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE DNR IN THE MANAGEMENT OF CWD, TB, AND OTHER DISEASES (Erik Schnelle of QDMA, and Rob Miller)**

MUCC will bring the issue of CWD and TB to the forefront and work with the DNR to enforce existing laws, find alternative funding other than what is provided by existing fish and wildlife funds and continue education efforts and promote hunter involvement in combating these diseases. MUCC also supports additional harvesting of does in DMU's through methods of later seasons and reduced doe tag prices and other means to help promote the take of does to maintain a balanced herd. MUCC continues to support baiting bans. MUCC should work with QDMA and other stakeholders to help DNR and NRC with this disease.

- 5. PASSED: LINE 5 AND ALTERNATIVES TO UNDERWATER PIPELINES (Saginaw Field and Stream Club)**

MUCC will work with the National Wildlife Federation and other decision makers to protect the Great Lakes from any oil spill, including serious considerations of alternatives to pipelines across or below the Great Lakes.

**7. PASSED: DAILY PERCH HARVEST RULES TO BE EXPANDED (George Lindquist, MUCC Vice President)**

MUCC will work with the DNR and the NRC to make the regulations for yellow perch in Lake Gogebic, which includes a 25-perch bag limit with no more than five fish 12" or greater, a rule for state inland lakes and wherever else appropriate.

**9. PASSED: IMPROVING NO NET LOSS OF HUNTING LAND (UP Whitetails of Marquette County)**

MUCC will work with the Michigan Legislature, the DNR, and the NRC to ensure that the amount of public land available to hunters does not decrease in the future and that if state managed public hunting land does close, there will be compensation in the form of new hunting land in the same region for fair opportunities to hunters in those regions.

**11. PASSED: RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES(DNR) TO CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE MOOSE MANAGEMENT PLAN (Greg Peter, MUCC At Large Director)**

MUCC encourages the DNR to create a moose management plan understanding the need of additional funds and personnel to ensure a sustainable moose population that supports hunting as a management tool.

**13. PASSED AS AMENDED: FIREARMS EDUCATION AND SAFETY (David Van Lopik, Sport Shooting Committee Chair)**

MUCC will work with the State Department of Education, Intermediate School Districts, and local school districts to provide access to promoting, advertising and providing information about firearm safety classes and hunter education classes at local, regional and state facilities and other range facilities open to the public.

**15. PASSED AS AMENDED: MICHIGAN ARCTIC GRAYLING STOCKING INITIATIVE RESOLUTION (Paul Rose, MUCC Past-President)**

MUCC and its partners will work with the DNR to ensure the introduction of Arctic Grayling to Michigan rivers will only be done if: The management of existing fisheries will not be affected by a change in legal status of Arctic Grayling such as "threatened" or "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act elsewhere in the United States; the planting of Arctic Grayling will only occur in water bodies where support exists from stakeholders and anglers; and if the funding of an Arctic Grayling program is confirmed to be sustainable and will not undermine existing fisheries programs or staffing in Michigan.

**16. PASSED: PROTECTING LIVESTOCK FROM BEAR DEPREDATION (Tim Dusterwinkle, Michigan Bear Hunters Association)**

MUCC will work with the Michigan Legislature to amend state law to require an electric perimeter fence on privately-owned cervid operations to deter bears and other species such as coyote and wolf.

**17. PASSED: ORV USE IN THE STATE FOREST (MUCC Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee)**

MUCC will urge the DNR to develop an annual public report that provides data on ORV damage, enforcement activity and accidents in the state forest. Also, MUCC should request that the DNR not allow expansion of forest roads open to ORV unless the ORV report is posted for public review and evaluated for: compliance with the DNR's forest certification criteria; the ability of DNR to mitigate resource damage; and adequate funding of ORV enforcement is in line with the expansion of ORV use on forest roads.

**19. PASSED: ESTABLISH DESIGNATED WATER TRAILS PROGRAM (MUCC Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee)**

MUCC urges the DNR to finalize the draft "Michigan's Policy on State Trails Designation" and implement the designation program.

**20. PASSED AS AMENDED: WANTON AND WASTE LAW PERTAINING TO WHITETAIL DEER (Daniel L. McMaster, Shiawassee Conservation Association)**

MUCC will work with Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), Whitetails Unlimited (WTU), the DNR, the NRC, and the legislature to create and adopt wanton waste legislation pertaining to whitetail deer to ensure there are penalties if no reasonable attempt is made to retrieve the animal. This should also ensure the carcass of a deer should be disposed of properly and not left in the field. It is recommended that MUCC also consider wanton waste laws for other game species.

**21. PASSED: WORK WITH THE DNR TO EXPAND PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE DETROIT RIVER AND LAKE ST. CLAIR BY CONSTRUCTING A PUBLIC BOATING ACCESS SITE ON BELLE ISLE (Tim Muir, Lake St. Clair Walleye Association)**

MUCC reaffirm its commitment to expanding fishing opportunities in the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair by supporting the DNR, Belle Isle Conservancy, and Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee with the construction of a tournament friendly, 24 hour/day boating access site on Belle Isle. Also, ask that the DNR work with the fishing tournaments and local fishing conservation clubs to review and consider the positive local economic benefits associated with building a tournament friendly boating access site that will help to host organized fishing events.

**22. PASSED: ESTABLISH WORK ORDERS TO REQUIRE PARKS TO CO-OPERATE WITH OTHER DIVISIONS ON HABITAT MANAGEMENT (MUCC Parks, Recreation, and Trails Committee)**

MUCC will work with the DNR to establish work orders to require the Parks and Recreation division to cooperate with the other divisions of the DNR to address the needs for managing wildlife habitat located within the State Parks and State Recreation Areas.

**23. PASSED: RESOLUTION ON THE VALUE OF PUBLIC LAND (Michigan Resource Stewards)**

MUCC will work with Michigan Resource Stewards to urge our legislature, advocacy groups, and policy makers at all levels to support the efforts of the DNR, MSU, and others to document the value and value added to our economy by public land and acknowledge the multiplicity of health benefits, social benefits and other intangible benefits that accrue to Michigan citizens because of our public lands.

**6. WITHDRAWN: Combine both of the spring turkey season in hunt ZZ into one six-week season (Millard H. Holton, Individual Member)**

MUCC would work with the DNR and the NRC to frame a Wildlife Order that would combine the existing Hunt Unit ZZ turkey seasons (April 2-week season and guaranteed hunt in May) into one which would increase hunting opportunities as well as recruit and retain more hunters.

**2. FAILED: Antler Point Restrictions (APR) Initiative Acceleration (Erik Schnelle of QDMA, and Rob Miller)**

MUCC should advocate for the acceleration of the Antler Point Initiative process to take no more than one calendar year from the date of initiation to regulation. Also that the APR initiative process should be conducted at no cost to the sponsoring sportsmen group's.

**8. FAILED: Reduce the number of buck tags per hunter to one per year (Charles Felcyn, Paw Paw Conservation Club)**

MUCC will work with the DNR and the NRC to simplify and restructure the deer combo license to include one buck tag and one doe tag. For those hunters only wishing to hunt in the UP, they would have the option of just buying a single deer tag for an antlered deer.

**10. FAILED: Change opening day of firearm deer season to the Saturday closest to November 15th (Leonard Shaner, Huron Pointe Sportsmen's Association)**

MUCC would urge the DNR and other appropriate public entities to examine the economic, social, natural resource, and hunter recruitment implications that would result from changing the opening day of Michigan firearm deer season to the closest Saturday to November 15th. If this review results in a recommendation of this change, then MUCC would support this initiative.

**12. FAILED: Center fire changes to Michigan's limited firearm zone (Charles Felcyn, Paw Paw Conservation Club)**

MUCC work with the DNR and the NRC to change Michigan's limited firearm deer zone to have the same firearm restrictions and regulations as the rest of Michigan.

**14. FAILED: Bobcat license (Tim Dusterwinkle, Michigan Bear Hunters Association)**

MUCC work with the Michigan Legislature to create a bobcat license for a reasonable fee that will recognize bobcats as a premier game species while recouping some DNR costs for their management.

**18. FAILED: Primitive archery season extension from one day after the liberty hunt through January 31st (Sam Morello, Michigan Bow Hunters Association)**

MUCC should work with the DNR and the NRC to allow a Primitive Archery equipment season with a start date being the first day following the Liberty Hunt and continue the season until January 31st of the following year.

# 2018 Passed Policy Resolutions

## Passed Resolution #1

**Submitted by:** Region 1 Policy Board Member Tim Kobasic on behalf of the Hiawathaland Trail Association and Straits Area Sportsmen's Club

**MUCC Region:** 1 and 2

**Passed:** June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 Annual Convention

**Title: PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO ADEQUATELY FUND UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE, MAINTAIN NATIONAL FORESTS, NATIONAL PARKS, AND NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND REDUCE TORT LIABILITY**

**WHEREAS**, the National Forest System was created by the Land Revision Act of 1891, which was signed under the presidency of Benjamin Harrison; and

**WHEREAS**, there are 155 National Forests containing almost 190 million acres of land; and

**WHEREAS**, land management of these areas focuses on conservation, timber harvesting, livestock grazing, watershed protection, wildlife, and recreation; and

**WHEREAS**, there are management decision conflicts between conservationists and environmentalists, and natural resource extraction companies and lobbies, over the protection and/or use of National Forest lands; and

**WHEREAS**, these conflicts center on endangered species protection, logging of old-growth forests, intensive clear cut logging, undervalued stumpage fees, mining operations and mining claim laws, and logging/mining access road-building within National Forests; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) is charged with the management responsibilities of the National Forests; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976 (P.L. 94-588) is a United States federal law that is the primary statute governing the administration of national forests and was an amendment to the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974; and

**WHEREAS**, the NFMA called for the management of renewable resources on national forests lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the objectives of the NFMA include requirements for the US Forest Service to develop plans for national forests from permanent damages; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress requires the USFS in conjunction with other applicable agencies, to thoroughly, research, and plan for the nation's renewable resource use, the current demand, anticipated demands, and environmental and economic impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, the ability for the USFS to fulfill its statutory requirement is paid for through funding appropriations controlled by Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1986, the cost of fire suppression throughout the national forests consumed approximately 15% of the USFS total budget; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the annual increases of incidences of forest fires throughout the national forests, the cost of fire suppression to date now consumes and average of 56% of the USFS total budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the negative impact in the loss of funding for the operation of the USFS has caused reduction in services that include forest management, education and outreach, recreation, and especially road maintenance; and

**WHEREAS**, staffing reductions within some of the national forests have reached epic proportions (i.e. Hiawatha National Forest is at 45%) which further complicates their abilities to perform statutory obligations. NOW,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs support an initiative for the United States Congress to amend the budget process used to fund the United States Forest Service operations to offset the extraordinary costs being incurred with fire suppression and assure committed budget line items to maintain fundamental services; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Congress pass legislation that will assure indemnification of the USFS and sponsor organizations from liability under Tort Law to reduce litigation from the inherent risks from outdoors activity by those who use the national forests for recreation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Congress assure that all national forests, parks and national monuments remain intact and also continue to allow public access.

### **Passed Resolution #03**

**Submitted by:** Diane Konneck

**MUCC Region:** 7

**Passed:** June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 Annual Convention

**Title:** **ESTABLISH REGULATIONS ON THE OPERATION OF WAKE BOATS**

**WHEREAS**, it is becoming more common to see a surfer or wake boarder riding a wave being produced by a boat, and

**WHEREAS**, some of this activity is taking place on small to medium inland lakes in Michigan, and

**WHEREAS**, The waves produced to support this activity are larger and create more energy than any wave produced naturally, even in the strongest winds or storms, and

**WHEREAS**, these waves are producing inordinate amounts of damage to on shore and near shore structures such as docks, sea walls, beaches and swim platforms, and people have been knocked down or off docks and swim platforms, and

**WHEREAS**, the propulsion units on wake boats that have the ability to pump water in and out of a boat are very disruptive to plant and animal life on the lake bottoms in shallow areas.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the legislature, Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Commission to create regulations restricting the use of boats that produce a wake large enough to support surfing and wake boarding to the larger lakes (example: 2000 acres), areas further from shore than the current rules allow (example: 1000 ft.).

### **Passed Resolution #04**

**Submitted by:** Erik Schnelle, Michigan Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) and Rob Miller

**MUCC Region:** 9

**Passed as amended:** June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 Annual Convention

**Title:** **MUCC WORKING CLOSELY WITH DNR IN THE MANAGEMENT OF CWD, TB, AND OTHER DISEASES.**

**WHEREAS**, Both Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) appear to be established diseases in the state of Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, Deer hunting in the State of Michigan is +/- a \$2.6 billion-dollar industry; and

**WHEREAS**, There is no known cure for CWD; and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) 2017 convention passed unanimously two resolutions in regards to this issue, #13. Bringing Cervid Carcasses into Michigan From Other States and #14 Captive Cervid Regulation Reform.

MUCC's 2018 Resolutions, As Approved

**WHEREAS**, the MUCC 2017 Convention passed unanimously a resolution regarding funding of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) #12, Unfunded Mandates on the DNR. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC bring to the forefront the above-mentioned resolutions and work with the DNR to enforce the above as well as find alternate funding than fish and wildlife funds to combat these diseases; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all the below points be considered:

- MUCC stay on top of the education of members by use of magazine, website, email and or whatever they have available to both educate as well as promote hunter involvement in cooperation with the DNR while combatting these diseases.
- MUCC support additional harvest of does in the effected DMU's, may be late season, reduced doe tag cost or other means.
- MUCC continue to support baiting bans.
- MUCC works with other organizations such as the Michigan QDMA in combining resources to help the DNR and NRC with this disease and management issue.

#### **Passed Resolution #05**

**Submitted by:** Saginaw Field and Stream Club  
**MUCC Region:** 6  
**Passed:** June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 Annual Convention  
**Title:** **LINE 5 AND ALTERNATIVES TO UNDERWATER PIPELINES**

**WHEREAS**, the Line 5 pipeline consists of two parallel pipelines 4.09 miles long underneath the Straits of Mackinac, was built in 1953 and runs from Superior, Wisconsin, through northern Michigan and ultimately crossing the St. Clair River at Sarnia, Ontario and is currently operated by Enbridge Inc., and

**WHEREAS**, Enbridge is also the company that operated the pipeline that ruptured and spilled over 840,000 gallons of oil into the Kalamazoo River in 2010, and

**WHEREAS**, there are numerous places along the underwater section of the pipeline where protective coating is missing, and for much of the history of the pipeline until recently, numerous sections of pipe were not properly supported on the Lake Michigan lakebed – where it gets stressed by currents, and

**WHEREAS**, a recent 2017 National Wildlife Federation (NWF) report revealed that the land-based sections of Line 5 have leaked 29 times since 1968, spilling over 1 million gallons of oil; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2016 University of Michigan study estimates an oil spill in the Straits could cover a segment as large as 20 percent (150 miles) of 700 miles of shoreline potentially at risk from a spill and impact a 17,000-square mile spill zone; and

**WHEREAS**, at risk are the fish and wildlife of the Great Lakes, the drinking water relied upon by citizens, and the region's recreation and tourism economy which supports Michigan's way of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the agreement between the State of Michigan and Enbridge Energy Company dated November 27, 2017 was not executed with any other concerned group participation. **NOW,**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with National Wildlife Federation and the appropriate decision makers to make every effort to protect the Great Lakes and its tributaries from any potential oil spill, including serious consideration of alternatives to pipelines across or below the Great Lakes.

#### **Passed Resolution #07**

**Submitted by:** George Lindquist, MUCC Vice President  
**MUCC Region:** 1  
**Passed:** June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 Annual Convention  
**Title:** **DAILY PERCH HARVEST RULES TO BE EXPANDED**

**WHEREAS**, in 2011, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) adopted Fisheries Order 206, which governs special fishing regulations for coolwater species on select lakes; and  
**WHEREAS**, the current law authorizes the Director of the Department to provide for better protection and preservation of fish, game and birds; and  
**WHEREAS**, the regulations contained in Order 206 are more restrictive than the general hook-and-line regulations that were needed to improve upon the ability of the Department to protect and enhance populations of sport fish in certain lakes; and  
**WHEREAS**, Lake Gogebic was added to protect large yellow perch from Order 220 to Order 206; and  
**WHEREAS**, large yellow perch are highly pursued by anglers, and prized when harvested; and  
**WHEREAS**, surveys indicate that nearly half of the yellow perch sport angling harvest in Lake Gogebic consists of fish over 10 inches in size; and  
**WHEREAS**, in 2011, local angling groups and residents requested that the Department consider reducing the daily possession limit to help protect and instill stewardship for this population; and  
**WHEREAS**, this resulted in a 25 fish daily possession limit on yellow perch with no more than five fish 12 inches or greater; and  
**WHEREAS**, perch fishing is a great way to introduce others, including children, to fishing so those that desire more than 25 fish could be encouraged to introduce others to the opportunities of perch fishing.  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to make those regulations for yellow perch in Lake Gogebic a rule for state inland lakes and elsewhere determined to be appropriate.

**Passed Resolution #09**

**Submitted by:** UP Whitetails of Marquette County  
**MUCC Region:** 1  
**Passed:** June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 Annual Convention  
**Title:** **IMPROVING NO NET LOSS OF HUNTING LAND**

**WHEREAS**, the current law states that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is required to keep land under its control open to hunting unless it determined that it should be closed to hunting because (1) public safety; (2) fish or wildlife management concerns; (3) homeland security concerns; or (4) other legal requirements; and  
**WHEREAS**, the Department is required to manage land under its control to support and promote hunting opportunities to the extent authorized by law; and  
**WHEREAS**, the Department is required to manage land under its control to prevent any net decrease in the acreage of such land that is open to hunting; and  
**WHEREAS**, the “no-net-loss” provision also requires the state to open additional lands to hunting if it closes land currently open to hunting; and  
**WHEREAS**, the current law does not acknowledge where the additional lands must be compensated, such as within the Michigan Hunting and Trapping Zones 1 (all of the Upper Peninsula), 2 (Northern Lower Peninsula), and 3 (Southern Lower Peninsula); and  
**WHEREAS**, these requirements do not apply to private land that qualifies as “commercial forestland” for certain tax incentives; and



**WHEREAS**, the Department shall submit a report to the Legislature detailing the location and acreage of land under its control (except for commercial forestland) that is closed to hunting during the previous year ending March 1, and the reason for closure, and the location and acreage of land under its control (except for commercial forestland) that it opened to hunting during the previous year to compensate for the land that was closed.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Michigan Legislature, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to continue to ensure that the amount of public land available to hunters does not decrease in the future; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that should land under the control of the DNR close to hunting, compensation of additional land will be opened within the same region it was closed, to ensure fair opportunities to hunters within the designated regions.

### **Passed Resolution #11**

**Submitted by:** Greg Peter, MUCC At Large Director  
**MUCC Region:** 8  
**Passed:** June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 Annual Convention  
**Title:** **RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) TO CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE MOOSE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the DNR has created comprehensive management plans targeting various species, including bear, elk, wolf, and deer.

**WHEREAS**, several states, including those located in the upper Midwest and northeastern United States, have a comprehensive moose management plan.

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Moose Advisory Council was established and tasked by Public Act 366 of 2010 with the development of a comprehensive moose management plan and their report of September 2011 made recommendations for the establishment of a plan along the guidelines of the North American Model of Wildlife Management

**WHEREAS**, the Council's White Paper of February 2011 outlined a management plan contingent upon many factors impacting the sustainability of the species population

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC encourage the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to create a comprehensive moose management plan understanding the need for an increased commitment of funds and personnel to work to ensure a vibrant, sustainable moose population supporting hunting as a management tool understanding the many complicating factors in consideration.

### **Passed Resolution #13**

**Submitted by:** David Van Lopik, Sport Shooting Committee Chair  
**MUCC Region:** 7  
**Passed as amended:** June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 Annual Convention  
**Title:** **FIREARMS EDUCATION AND SAFETY**

**WHEREAS**, many public schools do not have a firearms safety program or hunter education safety program available.

**WHEREAS**, many public schools do not allow firearms or conservation clubs to hold extracurricular classes in firearms safety or hunter safety at their facilities.

**WHEREAS**, many public schools do not allow any advertisements, flyers, posters or other information about firearms safety programs or hunter safety programs on public school property.

**WHEREAS**, it has been proven that classes and programs in firearms safety and hunter education safety have reduced, and in some cases eliminated firearms related hunting deaths.

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan United Conservation Club believes firearm safety instruction and hunter safety instruction are an integral part of safely handling a firearm and promoting firearms safety.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Michigan United Conservation Club will work with the State Department of Education, Intermediate School Districts (ISD's), and local school districts to provide access to promoting, advertising and providing information about firearm safety classes and hunter education classes at local, regional and state facilities and other range facilities open to the public.

### **Passed Resolution #15**

**Submitted by:** Paul Rose, MUCC Past-President

**MUCC Region:** 4

**Passed as amended:** June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 Annual Convention

**Title:** **MICHIGAN ARCTIC GRAYLING STOCKING INITIATIVE RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, native Arctic Grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*) were believed to have been extirpated in Michigan in the 1930's and,

**WHEREAS**, the extirpation of Arctic Grayling is believed to have occurred due to the degradation of habitat and unsustainable harvest and,

**WHEREAS**, all prior attempts to plant Arctic Grayling in Michigan have been unsuccessful, and

**WHEREAS**, Michigan now enjoys a restored trout fishery which is among the most highly regarded in the nation, and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has announced an Arctic Grayling stocking initiative which lacks a clear public or stakeholder engagement process for the selection of water bodies and watersheds for planting, and

**WHEREAS**, the decline of Arctic Grayling in other states could potentially result in a changed legal status of the species such as listing under the Endangered Species Act, and

**WHEREAS**, many of Michigan's watersheds continue to undergo fisheries habitat restoration which could be impacted by the presence of a species which may become subject to federal protections elsewhere, and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC and its partners work with the MDNR to assure that introduction of Arctic Grayling to Michigan rivers and streams will only be done if the following conditions are met:

- 1) The management of Michigan's existing fisheries will not be affected by a change of legal status of Arctic Grayling such as designation as "threatened" or "endangered" under the terms of the Endangered Species Act elsewhere in the United States.
- 2) The planting of Arctic Grayling will only occur in those water bodies and watersheds where support exists from stakeholder groups and anglers. And
- 3) If the funding for an Arctic Grayling planting program is confirmed to be sustainable and will not undermine existing fisheries programs or staffing requirements in Michigan.

### **Passed Resolution #16**

**Submitted by:** Tim Dusterwinkle, Michigan Bear Hunters Association

**MUCC Region:** 9

**Passed:** June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 Annual Convention

**Title:** **PROTECTING LIVESTOCK FROM BEAR DEPREDATION**

**WHEREAS**, privately-owned captive cervid (deer and elk) are considered “livestock” within state law in Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, owners of livestock have the ability to kill an animal that is chasing, attacking, injuring or killing their livestock; and

**WHEREAS**, bears are natural predators for fawns, so they are attracted to cervid operations; and

**WHEREAS**, bears are primarily attracted to captive cervid facilities due to year-around feeding practices; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no law requiring cervid operations to protect their “livestock” from bears; and

**WHEREAS**, electric fence has been found to be an effective deterrent of bears. **NOW**,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Michigan Legislature to amend state law to require electric perimeter fence on privately-owned cervid operations to deter bears and other species such as coyote and wolf.

### **Passed Resolution # 17**

**Submitted by:** MUCC Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee

**Passed:** June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 Annual Convention

**Title:** **ORV USE IN THE STATE FOREST**

**WHEREAS** Act 288 of 2016 requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to inventory all forest roads and

**WHEREAS** the DNR is required to determine the forest roads that would be open to Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) use by the public and

**WHEREAS** the inventory of the northern lower peninsula is complete and 6000 miles of forest roads are now open to ORV use and

**WHEREAS** the State forest is certified for sustainable forest management and

**WHEREAS** forest certification requires the DNR to remediate ORV damage in the state forest and

**WHEREAS** no additional money is earmarked for ORV damage remediation and ORV enforcement for the substantial increase in roads approved for ORV use. **NOW**,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that MUCC should urge the DNR to develop an annual public report that provides data on ORV damage, enforcement activity and accidents in the state forest and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that MUCC should request that the DNR not allow any additional expansion of forest roads open to ORV use until the ORV report is posted for public review and evaluated related to the DNR’s compliance with forest certification criteria, the ability of the DNR to mitigate resource damage and that funding for ORV enforcement due to the expansion of ORV use on forest roads is adequate.

### **Passed Resolution #19**

**Submitted by:** MUCC Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee

**Passed:** June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 Annual Convention

**Title:** **ESTABLISH DESIGNATED WATER TRAILS PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS** Michigan has over 3000 miles of water trails on the Great Lakes, inland lakes, and rivers, and **WHEREAS** water trails provide a great opportunity to attract tourists, promote healthy lifestyles, and grow local and regional economies, and

**WHEREAS** the authority for establishing a designated water trails program is provided through PA 451 of 1994, and

**WHEREAS** the development of a designated trails system is recommended in the “Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan”, “Department of Natural Resources Managed Public Land Strategy” and the “Michigan Parks and Recreation Division Strategy”, and  
**WHEREAS** an August 18, 2016 draft “Michigan’s Policy on State Water Trails Designation” provides the information needed to create a program to formally designate water trails and  
**WHEREAS** a Designated Water Trails Program would provide standardized criteria for designated water trails that provide a level of expectation related to facilities and amenities such as access, signage, restrooms and rest areas. **NOW**  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that MUCC should urge the Department of Natural Resources to finalize the draft “Michigan’s Policy on State Trails Designation” and implement the designation Program.

#### **Passed Resolution #20**

**Submitted by:** Daniel L. McMaster, Shiawassee Conservation Association  
**MUCC Region:** 6  
**Passed as amended:** June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 Annual Convention  
**Title:** **WANTON AND WASTE LAW PERTAINING TO WHITETAIL DEER**

**WHEREAS**, Michigan does not have a true wanton waste law pertaining to whitetail deer; and  
**WHEREAS** two thirds of states in the country have wanton waste laws that pertain to wildlife; and  
**WHEREAS** Michigan currently has a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) crisis and a deer carcass should not be left on the ground and should be disposed of properly; and  
**WHEREAS** Michigan continues to have a population in need of food assistance; and  
**WHEREAS** Michigan has several meat processors who take whole deer or partial deer and process at no cost to the hunter and distribute the meat to food banks and food networks.  
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that MUCC work with Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), Whitetails Unlimited (WTU), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Natural Resources Commission (NRC), and the legislature to create and adopt wanton waste legislation pertaining to whitetail deer; and  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a wanton waste law will require a hunter to make a reasonable attempt to retrieve rear hindquarters, front shoulders, back loins (back straps), and neck portions of a deer. In addition, the carcass shall disposed of properly and not left in the field.  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that MUCC look at wanton waste regulations and penalties to cover other wild game species.

#### **Passed Resolution #21**

**Submitted by:** Tim Muir, Lake St. Clair Walleye Association  
**MUCC Region:** 8  
**Passed:** June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Annual Convention  
**Title:** **WORK WITH THE DNR TO EXPAND PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE DETROIT RIVER AND LAKE ST. CLAIR BY CONSTRUCTING A PUBLIC BOATING ACCESS SITE ON BELLE ISLE.**

**WHEREAS**, Belle Isle is a 982-acre island in the Detroit River, managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) as a State Park; and

**WHEREAS**, The Lake St. Clair Walleye Association has collected and given to the MDNR and Belle Isle conservancy more than 4,500 signatures in an informal petition of support for a boating access site on Belle Isle; and

**WHEREAS**, The Detroit River is a year-round world class fishing destination and Lake St. Clair is one of the most heavily utilized lakes in the Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, there are no publicly owned boating access sites on the north end of the Detroit River; and

**WHEREAS**, There are only two privately owned boating access sites on the north end of the Detroit river that provide public use, these existing sites have safety of use and security issues, a common concern and problem amongst anglers; and

**WHEREAS**, it is not uncommon to wait over two hours and have to park on unsecured city streets to launch a boat and fish the Detroit River in the spring or drive many miles downriver to access the river; and

**WHEREAS**, night fishing is very popular on the river and safety and security of property is a significant concern; and

**WHEREAS**, Tournament-friendly boat launch facilities have a proven track record in other states of attracting more fishing tournaments of all sizes along with more non-tournament anglers who have learned of the quality of fishing through the value-added marketing efforts of tournament organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, A tournament-friendly boat launch is defined as a public boating access site with at minimum 8 two sided launch docks, restrooms, and parking for at least 100 vehicles with trailers; and

**WHEREAS**, a quality tournament-friendly boating access site will draw people from within the state and from outside the state to Belle Isle, providing an increased positive economic impact for not only the MDNR, but also the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan as experienced by communities in other states that have built tournament-friendly launches - one major fishing tournament can bring a direct economic impact during the event up to \$1.5 Million or more; and

**WHEREAS**, the MDNR and Belle Isle Conservancy have allocated \$75,000 for a feasibility study for the construction of a public boating access site on Belle Isle or nearby Milliken State Park; and

**WHEREAS**, The current FY18 capital improvement budget for Belle Isle Park is ~\$1.25 million per the Belle Isle Strategic Management Plan Draft (Dec 4, 2017) for a total of ~\$6.25 million of capital improvement funds outlaid from FY18-FY22, these dollars are planned for investment on Belle Isle to upgrade and/or repair the island's infrastructure; additionally, Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund monies have been invested in Belle Isle these investments should be protected and maximized for continued recreation and enjoyment; and

**WHEREAS**, there was a previous resolution that passed in 2015 concerning supporting the MDNR in the pursuit of public improvements, including a boating access site on Belle Isle; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) reaffirm its commitment to expanding fishing opportunities on the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair by encouraging and/or supporting the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Belle Isle Conservancy, and Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee with the construction of a tournament friendly, 24 hour a day boating access site on Belle Isle; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the MDNR work with fishing tournament organizations and local fishing conservation clubs to review and consider the positive local economic benefits associated with building tournament-friendly boating access sites which are capable of hosting organized fishing events such as fishing tournaments and local fishing derbies.

**Passed Resolution #22**

**Submitted by:** MUCC Parks, Recreation, and Trails Committee

**Passed:** June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Annual Convention

**Title: ESTABLISH WORK ORDERS TO REQUIRE PARKS TO CO-OPERATE WITH OTHER DIVISIONS ON HABITAT MANAGEMENT**

**WHEREAS** the different divisions of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources share expertise in the management of wildlife habitat, and

**WHEREAS** State Recreation Areas' and State Parks' lands are the habitat of the wildlife therein, and **WHEREAS**, Within Michigan State Recreation Areas, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) is required to co-manage the habitat of the area with the DNR Wildlife Division; and

**WHEREAS**, the DNR Forest Resources Division (FRD) has additional expertise on forest management that should also be utilized; and

**WHEREAS** the PRD is mainly interested in the maintenance of human requirements in their operations, and

**WHEREAS** cooperative management by all of the divisions would best serve the habitat management for the wildlife. NOW,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to establish work orders to require the Parks and Recreation Division to cooperate with the other divisions of the DNR to address the needs for managing wildlife habitat located within the State Parks and State Recreation Areas.

**Passed Resolution #23**

**Submitted by:** Michigan Resource Stewards

**Passed:** June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Annual Convention

**Title: RESOLUTION ON THE VALUE OF PUBLIC LAND**

**WHEREAS:** Michigan is blessed with a rich abundance of public land including the largest state forest system east of the Mississippi River, and

**WHEREAS:** These public lands provide habitat for a great variety of wildlife, which poll after poll shows is of critical importance to Michigan citizens, and

**WHEREAS:** Michigan citizens enjoy a multitude of activities on public land including hunting, fishing, boating, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, camping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mushrooming, berry-picking, birding, ORV adventures, horseback riding, and other activities too numerous to list, and

**WHEREAS:** Studies have proven numerous health benefits from outdoor activity including longer lives from outdoor exercise and the fact that children do better socially, academically, and cognitively when they have opportunities to engage in unstructured outdoor play, and

**WHEREAS:** The ability to engage in these and other activities represents a birthright and a priceless heritage that benefits the health and welfare of Michigan citizens as documented in many studies, and

**WHEREAS:** Public land benefits Michigan's economy through our estimated \$22 billion annual return from tourism, \$20 billion from forest products on DNR-administered public land; \$5 billion from hunting and fishing, and other benefits not yet quantified, and

**WHEREAS:** Property with access to public land generally sells at a premium, and

**WHEREAS:** The economic benefits and jobs created thanks to our public lands are not very thoroughly studied and not always given appropriate recognition, and

**WHEREAS:** The Department of Natural Resources is working with Michigan State University and others to study the value of and value added to Michigan's economy by public land, and

**WHEREAS:** Such studies are important in documenting the importance of public land in economic terms and helping the public and policy makers understand the importance of public land to Michigan citizens

and our economy, especially the Michigan Legislature which is charged by our Constitution with protecting our natural resources and requiring reports on public land, and

**WHEREAS:** The loss or diminishment of our public land base would lead to irreparable damage to the quality of life enjoyed in Michigan and to our economy. NOW,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Michigan Resource Stewards (Stewards) to urge our legislature, advocacy groups and policy makers at all levels to support the efforts of the DNR, MSU and others to thoroughly document the value and value added to our economy by public land, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That MUCC and the Stewards call upon our legislature, advocacy groups and policy makers at all levels to acknowledge the multiplicity of health benefits, social benefits and other intangible benefits that accrue to Michigan citizens because of our public lands, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That MUCC and the Stewards call upon the Legislature to assist the DNR in documenting the above referenced values of public land pursuant to the charge given to the Legislature in the Michigan Constitution, Article X, Section 5, to “require annual reports as to such lands from all departments having supervision or control thereof...” and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That MUCC and the Stewards call upon the Legislature to protect and maintain our public lands, pursuant to the charge in Article IV, Section 52 of the Michigan Constitution to “provide for the protection of the air, water and other natural resources of the state from pollution impairment and destruction,” and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:** That MUCC and the Stewards assert that protecting our public land heritage in Michigan is of paramount importance to our citizens for health, quality of life and prosperity, today and for the future.