



# Visit one of Michigan's GEMS

## *Grouse Enhanced Management System*

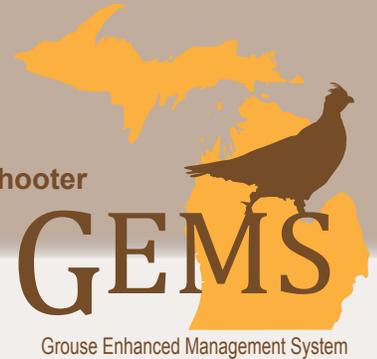
Photo credit: Ruffed Grouse Society



**W**ith the help of hunters and partners, the DNR is developing a series of intensively managed, accessible and walk-in ruffed grouse hunting areas across the northern Lower (NLP) and Upper Peninsulas (UP). The areas are called GEMS – Grouse Enhanced Management System.

### **GEMS goals:**

- Provide unique hunting opportunities
- Promote hunter recruitment and retention
- Expand local economies
- Provide a destination point for the traveling wing-shooter
- Accelerate timber harvest opportunities



GEMS are:

- 1,000 to 7,000 acres in size
- Managed primarily for aspen with a shortened rotation age (40 years vs the standard 60 years)
- Two tracks (logging roads) will be gated in order to provide well managed grouse habitat without concern for passing vehicles

The DNR is committed to developing 13 GEMS in the NLP and UP by 2016.

### **Adventure Opportunities**

GEMS provide adventure opportunities for a variety of hunter types -- youth, adults new to the sport, seniors, and people with disabilities. GEMS are the perfect place to mentor youth hunters in secure areas. Seniors and those with mobility concerns will have a more leisurely opportunity with minimal terrain challenges. First time grouse hunters may be more comfortable with easily marked trails and maps. These sites are destination points for travelers who wish to move across the state from one GEMS location to the next. And, our wounded veterans may find these ideal areas to hunt given the easier mobility access and road grade for track chair use.

- Although these lands are managed for grouse, hunters will also have success in finding woodcock, snowshoe hare, and deer.
- Birders, in search of early successional species, will also enjoy walking these trails as well as wildlife viewers enjoying the overall scenery.



### **Partnerships**

The DNR is looking for partners with large landholdings to create additional GEMS sites and local businesses that can assist in promoting the trail system. Individuals that visit a GEMS site and then visit local businesses receive special discounts. The DNR encourages hunters to experience this unique hunting opportunity and in turn spend their time and money in the local establishments to boost those economies.

**Partners To-date:** Check out [www.michigan.gov/hunting](http://www.michigan.gov/hunting) for a list of important partners.

## GEMS Locations

### Upper Peninsula

-  **Blue Bill Creek**  
Gogebic County,  
Marenisco Township
  
-  **Ralph**  
Dickinson County,  
West Branch Township
  
-  **South Marquette**  
Marquette County,  
Forsyth Township

-  **Strickler**  
Mackinac County,  
Hudson Township
  
-  **Drummond Island**  
Chippewa County,  
Drummond Township

### Lower Peninsula

-  **LeeGrande Ranch**  
Cheboygan County,  
Koehler Township
  
-  **Lame Duck Foot Access Area**  
Gladwin County,  
Bourret Township

