



## Michigan DNR Wildlife Division's Game/Wildlife Map Help Document

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This document was created to answer some common questions, help clearly communicate some complicated lands information, and help resolve some problems users may have with the maps and other information served online off the DNR Wildlife Division (WLD) Game/Wildlife Area page at "[http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10363\\_10913-31657--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10363_10913-31657--,00.html)".

Topics covered in this version include:

1. What are these "areas"?
2. Explanation of important terms.
3. Explanation of the WLD Land types or categories.
4. My map prints too large or too small.
5. What do I do if an area doesn't have a detailed map yet?

You will find these topics in that listed order, below.

Other topics and frequently-asked-questions (with answers) are provided off the Michigan DNR website at <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>.

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### 1. What are these "areas"?

**The Wildlife Division's Administered and Managed/Co-Managed lands** are an major piece in the provisions and strategies for the conservation and management of Michigan's wildlife, resources and related recreational activities. These lands are critical tools for the successes Michigan DNR Wildlife Division (WLD) mission and strategic plan.

Please note:

- These specific focus areas are more easily referred to by the shorter term "WLD Lands."
- When using this term, be aware this grouping represents both:
  - (a.) Land types which are officially or formally dedicated to WLD for the administration and management lead on those specific areas,
  - (b.) Other lands which WLD either manages directly or co-manages with other DNR Divisions or agencies, who may be the lead on administration of those lands.
- For any of these areas, the given name is the formal or official WLD Project Area name.
- Documentation collections and new management tools are developing during continued improvements which facilitate WLD Master Plan authoring cycles for these areas. These activities are ongoing with a growing WLD staff [digital archives for Project Areas](#), which warehouses and serves a developing system of documents, maps, data, etc. for WLD staff to access these information resources. If you have materials to contribute, please contact on of the cooperating authors of this Michigan DNR Wildlife Division Technical Document.

## 2. Explanation of important terms:

In addition to explanations on the WLD Lands types in this document, there are some specific terms or conditions which are used when discussing WLD Lands and which should be clarified for all readers and users of this information:

*Admininstration* = lead authority on disposal, dedication, major action approval, etc.

*Management* = involved with day-to-day land activities, land planning, resource details, etc.

*Dedication* = a formal and official process whereby a specific portion of State land gets recognized, named, and a purpose described; discussed in more detail below.

## 3. Explanation of the WLD Land types or categories:

### A. Official or Formally Dedicated Wildlife Division Land Types:

The four types are:

- State Game Area (SGA),
- State Wildlife Area (SWA),
- State Fish & Wildlife Area (SFWA),
- State Wildlife Research Area (SWRA).

Dedication means the area was:

- Identified for a given purpose, as named (i.e. game, wildlife, or research area), through a formal process which retains that area for wildlife conservation and public recreation.
- Officially and formally dedicated through a specific process which involves the Division, the Director, the Natural Resources Commission, and other procedures and approvals.
- WLD was identified as the lead administering and lead managing Division of DNR.

### B. Other Wildlife Division Land Types:

Areas which are not formally dedicated to WLD, but are significant interest to WLD for important features species and wildlife habitat management purposes, are identified as State Wildlife Management Areas (SWMAs) either named this type or grouped with this type. These were:

- Identified for a given wildlife-related purpose, focus, and/or management interest.
- Not officially and formally Dedicated to WLD; however, these lands may be officially and formally Dedicated to another Division, with whom WLD works directly and cooperatively while WLD may be co-lead in administering and/or lead/co-lead in land management.
- Identified as specific areas officially retained for wildlife conservation and recreation purposes, such as in a gifted land deed, under WLD lead/co-lead for area management.
- Possibly delegated to WLD as lead administering and lead managing DNR Division.
- Possibly not Dedicated yet, but may be under considered for Dedication -or- be in an evolving situation, an unresolved status, properties coming in-or-out of ownership, etc.
- Where WLD/DNR may have spent notable Federal Aid funds (Pitman-Robertson, etc.) within that area, and therefore WLD has a major interest and is involved in administering and managing the area because has to follow specific Federal rules and reporting.
- Where WLD has an agreement with another entity as the lead administering Division or cooperating agency, wherein WLD has significant involvement on that area for specific wildlife and habitat management or overall resource conservation interests, and therefore WLD provides notable assistance with management of that specific area.
- A category which includes floodings, impoundment areas, special forest opening areas within State Forests for wildlife initiatives like upland game birds or deer, and "game or wildlife management units" within State Parks and Recreation Areas; all of these have a DNR Division as an administering entity with WLD involved as land manager.

- A category which includes Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) of the US Fish and Wildlife Service; a Federal Agency is administering entity with WLD as land manager.

*Example:* a regional State ownership is Dedicated to the Forestry Division, with a specific smaller portion of land identified as both a forest stand type, like a non-forested opening, and as an important focus area for wildlife, such as maintained waterfowl management. Years ago part of the forest opening was identified, investigated, and approved as acceptable for Federal Aid Funds (like Pittman-Robertson funds) to be spent on an impoundment which created and maintains a flooding within that area for use by waterfowl and other wildlife species. This specifically creates a special wildlife management focus area, or a State Wildlife Management Area (SWMA). For this SWMA, Forestry Division may be the administering Division, yet WLD has a major role in the on-the-ground land management, as lead manager or co-lead manager for this cooperative resource area.

#### **4. My map prints too large or too small:**

Try adjusting your printer settings to “fit to page” and check the orientation. Adobe does also provide a lot of user help within Adobe Reader off the “help” options at upper-right of the software window, and off their website at <http://adobe.com> so please see them for help with the software. Several other software tools may read the Adobe PDF format, but you may not be using Adobe Reader or a newer version; we recommend you use Adobe Reader and a latest version, for the best access to these map files and other documents.

#### **5. What do I do if an area doesn't have a detailed map yet?**

Detailed area maps are on the way. The DNR Wildlife Division has recently done a major review and assessment, related to Division lands. Now that that specific assessment and upgrade is done, all WLD-lands will soon have area maps.

During that period, try to use Mi-Hunt or the online county-level DNR maps.

Then later check back to access the new detailed maps when they are finished.