



MICHIGAN

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

PRELIMINARY SURVEY SUMMARY

WILDLIFE DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

August 2014



Doug A. Ringler, C.P.A., C.I.A.
AUDITOR GENERAL

The auditor general shall conduct post audits of financial transactions and accounts of the state and of all branches, departments, offices, boards, commissions, agencies, authorities and institutions of the state established by this constitution or by law, and performance post audits thereof.

– Article IV, Section 53 of the Michigan Constitution

Audit report information can be accessed at:

<http://audgen.michigan.gov>



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DOUG A. RINGLER, C.P.A., C.I.A.
AUDITOR GENERAL

August 25, 2014

Mr. J.R. Richardson, Chair
Natural Resources Commission
and
Mr. Keith Creagh, Director
Department of Natural Resources
Constitution Hall
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Mr. Richardson and Mr. Creagh:

This is our preliminary survey summary of the Wildlife Division, Department of Natural Resources. Because we did not identify significant concerns that would warrant the additional use of our audit resources, we have decided to terminate this performance audit.

This summary contains our preliminary survey results, scope, and purpose and the Wildlife Division background.

We appreciate the courtesy and cooperation extended to us during our preliminary survey. If you have any questions, please call me or Laura J. Hirst, C.P.A., Deputy Auditor General.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Ringler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "R".

Doug Ringler
Auditor General

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Preliminary Survey Results

We conducted a preliminary survey of the Wildlife Division, Department of Natural Resources, and did not identify significant concerns that would warrant the additional use of our audit resources to complete a performance audit. Therefore, we have terminated the planned performance audit.

Wildlife Division Background

Mission: The Wildlife Division's mission is to enhance, restore, and conserve the State's wildlife resources, natural communities, and ecosystems for the benefit of Michigan's citizens, visitors, and future generations. The Wildlife Division's guiding principles are holding wildlife resources in trust for the people of Michigan, using science for the management of wildlife resources and the evaluation of management decisions, managing wildlife resources through ecosystem management, and helping to ensure long-term viability of wildlife populations and the habitats upon which they depend.

Responsibilities: The Wildlife Division's primary responsibilities include monitoring the health and well-being of wildlife, carrying out the various wildlife species and habitat plans, working with the Natural Resources Commission on wildlife species regulation, communicating wildlife issues to the public, and developing and performing research to address wildlife population and habitat needs.

Funding: In fiscal year 2013-14, the Wildlife Division's annual budget was supported by federal funds (50%), State license fees (42%), the State General Fund (5.5%), the Michigan Nongame Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (1.5%), and other funds (1%).

Expenditures: The Wildlife Division expended \$98 million during the period October 1, 2010 through April 30, 2014.

Employees: As of April 12, 2014, the Wildlife Division had 153 full-time employees and 27 seasonal or noncareer employees.

Preliminary Survey Scope

Our preliminary survey generally covered the period October 1, 2010 through April 30, 2014. We conducted our preliminary survey of the following significant Wildlife Division activities:

- Development of management and work plans to support the Wildlife Division's Guiding Principles Strategies (GPS).
- Monitoring of its GPS goals, objectives, and strategies.
- Use of scientific methods in the management of wildlife and habitat.
- Monitoring of disease concerns and outbreaks.
- Management and use of land.
- Monitoring and communication related to invasive species.
- Administrative support.
- Oversight of privately owned cervidae facilities.

Preliminary Survey Purpose

Within a performance audit, we design the preliminary survey to obtain an understanding of the core activities within an entity or a program and to identify potential program improvements and/or deficiencies that could impair management's ability to conduct its operations in an effective and efficient manner. If the results of a preliminary survey do not identify significant concerns, our practice is to terminate the planned performance audit.

Preliminary survey procedures are limited in nature and should not be considered a completed performance audit in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. In addition, our preliminary survey procedures would not necessarily disclose the presence or absence of any material conditions and/or reportable conditions. Given that the procedures we employed did not constitute a performance audit, we will not issue a performance audit report and we do not express conclusions regarding the Wildlife Division's effectiveness and efficiency.

