



Sportsmen's Heritage



MUCC has been the first voice in defense of Michigan's rich outdoor heritage throughout our 71 year history. There are seemingly constant attempts to weaken the land ethic and outdoor heritage that MUCC has aggressively defended. Recent attempts such as Internet hunting, the use of tranquilizers to take game, and anti-hunting ballot proposals have threatened what we have fought for over the years. MUCC will continue to defend our outdoor heritage against these and upcoming threats.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Ballot Initiatives

MUCC is vigilant about protecting our outdoor heritage and are, therefore, concerned about the ability of anti-hunting and other outside interests to damage our outdoor traditions. MUCC supports strengthening the requirements for putting a proposal on the ballot. We support a requirement that would ensure signatures are collected from a majority of the counties of the state. We also support the requirement that signature collectors be registered voters of the state and are required to identify that they are being paid to collect signatures. We believe that increasing the geographical distribution required for citizen petitions helps to level the playing field and allows grassroots organizations to compete against those with deep pockets who can pay for every collected signature. We also believe that these requirements will result in ballot questions being more reflective of the values of the state.

ACTION: Support legislation, (previously addressed in Senate Bills 1086 and 1087 and Senate Joint Resolution K,) which would address MUCC's interest in changing the procedure for placing a proposal on a statewide ballot. **LEAD: Donna Stine**

Funding Michigan's Natural Resources

MUCC is committed to finding a sustainable and equitable funding mechanism for natural resources management in Michigan that spreads the burden of funding management beyond traditional user groups. General Fund support for the management of Michigan's natural resources has dwindled from funding 25% of the MDNR's programs and activities in 1996, to below 9% today, with all indications trending towards a complete lack of General Fund support for Michigan's natural resources and environmental protection. Numerous options have been discussed regarding an equitable funding mechanism that is sustainable and

tracks with inflation, and MUCC will continue to support legislation aimed at solving this issue.

ACTION: Develop a sustainable and equitable funding mechanism for managing our natural resources and protecting our environment, which includes users' fees. **LEAD: Donna Stine**

Hunting Closures

Every year MUCC receives calls and letters from distressed members who are concerned about proposed local ordinances that will affect their ability to hunt in their communities. Currently, if a community wants to institute a hunting closure within their local unit of government the law says they must petition the MDNR. This process requires a mandatory a public hearing. The MDNR then evaluates whether or not the local municipality meets the requirements under the law necessary to move forward with its proposed ordinance. Usually, ordinances are brought forward because of perceived safety risks to residents posed by area hunters.

This system was challenged by the City of Saginaw. The city wanted to institute a firearm and archery control ordinance in order to limit hunting within their jurisdiction. The ordinance was initially denied by the MDNR after the completion of the public hearing and associated investigation. The City took the case to court and the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled that the City of Saginaw did not have to comply with the MDNR decision because firearm control is different than hunting regulation. The state appealed the case to the Michigan Supreme Court which ruled in favor of the City.

ACTION: Pass legislation to address the issues raised in the Michigan Supreme Court ruling. **LEAD: Dave Nyberg**

MUCC SPORTSMEN'S HERITAGE POLICY PRIORITIES

Marketing Fund

Michigan needs to follow the actions of the State of Colorado in marketing the importance of hunting, trapping, fishing and sound scientific decision making in managing the state's natural resources. In Colorado, a small surcharge was added to hunting and fishing licenses, which is deposited into a fund used to support television and radio advertising to market the importance of outdoor heritage to the health of natural resources and to the state's economy. None of the funds are used to support the administration or natural resources agency. Surveys were conducted prior to beginning the marketing campaign and after it had been implemented. These surveys show that the marketing campaign was successful in changing the public's attitudes towards these activities.

ACTION: Support the creation of a fund to market the importance of hunting, fishing and trapping and sound scientific decision-making. **LEAD:** Donna Stine

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ▶ **2008 Presidential Election:** With anticipated success of MUCC's "Michigan Out-of-Doors Presidential Forum" on October 16, 2008 at the Oakland County Sportsmen's Club, MUCC will provide Michigan sportsmen and women with the opportunity to discuss critical issues facing Michigan's Sportsmen's Heritage with representatives of the Presidential campaigns. Additionally, the November issue of Michigan Out-of-Doors Magazine provided responses from candidates running for U.S. Congress, U.S. Senate, and the Michigan House of Representatives on questions relating to MUCC's policy priorities. Additionally, U.S. Presidential Candidates provided a 500 word essay addressing Michigan sportsmen and sportswomen issues.
- ▶ **Protecting Trapping:** With MUCC leading the charge, the conservation community easily defeated legislation which would ban leg hold traps. HB 4497 of 2007, introduced by Rep. Wenke, was declared dead on arrival by Rep. Sheltroun, Chair of the House Tourism, Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources Committee. Rep. Sheltroun publicly stated that he will not take up any bill in his committee which is anti-hunting, trapping, or fishing.
- ▶ **Senate Conservation Week:** MUCC was honored by the Michigan Senate for 70 years of conservation and protection of Michigan's natural resources and for MUCC's proactive leadership.
- ▶ **Stopping Hunting Closures:** Several communities have recently attempted to close their communities to hunting. MUCC members have aggressively challenged these proposed closures, and in one case volunteered to help those who precipitated the proposal with their trespass problems. The hunting closures have not been instituted.
- ▶ **Preserved Clubs' Charitable Gaming Rights:** MUCC resolved an issue with the Michigan Lottery Commission which allowed club organizations to continue to conduct charitable gaming and also remain engaged in ballot campaigns. This effort also created an efficient and low cost process to allow clubs to conduct charitable gaming activities necessary to support their conservation activities.