DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Summary of FY 2026-27 Enacted
Public Act 21 of 2026 (Senate Bill 878, Article 13)

Analyst: Austin Scott

	FY 2025-26 Year-to-Date as of 2/11/26	FY 2026-27 Enacted	*Difference: Enacted From FY 2025-26 YTD* *Amount*	*%*
IDG/IDT	$208,100	$208,300	*$200*	*0.1*
Federal	100,214,800	100,804,700	*589,900*	*0.6*
Local	0	0	*0*	*--*
Private	7,609,200	8,330,900	*721,700*	*9.5*
Restricted	362,152,800	399,299,000	*37,146,200*	*10.3*
GF/GP	73,009,400	63,286,800	*(9,722,600)*	*(13.3)*
Gross	**$543,194,300**	**$571,929,700**	***$28,735,400***	***5.3***
FTEs	2,515.2	2,519.9	*4.7*	*0.2*

Note: Appropriation figures for all years include all proposed appropriation amounts, including amounts designated as "one-time."

Overview

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages Michigan's natural and cultural resources through conservation and protection. State parks, wildlife, fisheries, forests, and minerals management are all administered by DNR.

Major Budget Changes from FY 2025-26 Year-to-Date (YTD) Appropriations		FY 2025-26 Year-to-Date (as of 2/11/26)	FY 2026-27 Enacted Change
1. Nature Awaits (One-Time)	FTE	13.8	0.2
Adjusts one-time funding for the Nature Awaits program which provides grants to schools to cover transportation and other costs related to connecting all Michigan fourth graders to the state park system by reducing GF/GP by $1.2 million and adding 0.2 FTE positions and for an FY 2026-27 one-time appropriation of $850,000 GF/GP and 14.0 FTE positions.	**Gross**	**$2,011,800**	**($1,161,800)**
	GF/GP	$2,011,800	($1,161,800)
2. State Water Trail Organizations (One-Time)	**Gross**	**$0**	**$500,000**
Adds $500,000 in one-time GF/GP for grants to state water trail organizations.	GF/GP	$0	$500,000
3. Whitefish Recovery (One-Time)	**Gross**	**$0**	**$350,000**
Adds $350,000 in one-time GF/GP for whitefish recovery to support efforts to recover and monitor up to three lake whitefish stocks.	GF/GP	$0	$350,000
4. Cultural Resource Management	**Gross**	**$1,022,600**	**($100,000)**
Reduces $100,000 GF/GP for archeological operations and the identification, treatment, and disposition of Native American cultural items.	GF/GP	$1,022,600	($100,000)
5. Gas Tax Revenue Distribution	**Gross**	**NA**	**$17,700,000**
Includes an increase of $17.7 million in gas tax revenue in accordance with statutory formula across multiple appropriations including programs in boating, snowmobiling, and recreational trails.	Restricted	NA	17,700,000
	GF/GP	NA	$0
6. Capital Outlay Adjustments	**Gross**	**NA**	**$12,050,000**
Provides an increase of $12.1 million in state restricted funding increases to State Parks Repair and Maintenance, Snowmobile Trail Development and Maintenance, and Wetlands Restoration, Enhancement, and Acquisition.	Restricted	NA	12,050,000
	GF/GP	NA	$0

Major Budget Changes from FY 2025-26 Year-to-Date (YTD) Appropriations		FY 2025-26 Year-to-Date (as of 2/11/26)	FY 2026-27 Enacted Change
7. Off-Road Vehicle Trail Improvement Funding Decrease	**Gross**	**NA**	**($3,965,900)**
Includes a decrease of $4.0 million from the ORV Trail Improvement Fund in accordance with statutory formula across multiple appropriations including programs in ORV trail development, maintenance and law enforcement.	Restricted	NA	(3,965,900)
	GF/GP	NA	$0
8. Off-Road Vehicle Trail Improvement Funding for Silver Lake State Park	**Gross**	**NA**	**$1,404,100**
Includes an increase of $1.4 million from the ORV Trail Improvement Fund in accordance with statutory formula across multiple appropriations including support for the ORV area at Silver Lake State Park.	Restricted	NA	1,404,100
	GF/GP	NA	$0
9. National Recreational Trails	**Gross**	**$3,911,600**	**($1,393,700)**
Reduces $1.4 million in federal authorization from the US Department of Transportation for a grant program that assists states with the development and maintenance of recreational trails.	Federal	3,911,600	(1,393,700)
	GF/GP	$0	$0
10. State Game and Wildlife Area Infrastructure (One-Time)	**Gross**	**$0**	**$1,000,000**
Adds $1.0 million from the Game and Fish Protection Account for improvements to state game areas and wildlife areas.	Restricted	0	1,000,000
	GF/GP	$0	$0
11. Fisheries Infrastructure (One-Time)	**Gross**	**$0**	**$900,000**
Appropriates $900,000 from the Game and Fish Protection Account for infrastructure improvements to state fisheries.	Restricted	0	900,000
	GF/GP	$0	$0
12. Cormorant Population Management (One-Time)	**Gross**	**$0**	**$500,000**
Adds $500,000 from the Game and Fish Protection Account on a time-time basis to manage cormorants statewide.	Restricted	0	500,000
	GF/GP	$0	$0
13. Michigan Historical Center	FTE	42.0	1.5
Adds $436,200 from the Michigan Historical Center Operations Fund and authorizes 1.5 new FTE positions to expand support for ongoing operations in the Michigan Historical Center.	**Gross**	**$6,838,300**	**$436,200**
	Federal	1,225,300	0
	Restricted	2,285,400	436,200
	GF/GP	$3,327,600	$0
14. Parks and Recreation Division	FTE	NA	3.0
Appropriates $393,700 in state restricted funding and authorizes 3.0 new FTE positions for supervisory roles in state parks.	**Gross**	**NA**	**$393,700**
	Restricted	NA	393,700
	GF/GP	NA	$0
15. Recreational Boating – Gray Haven State Harbor	FTE	182.0	0.0
Provides $200,000 from the Waterways Account for operations at Gray Haven State Harbor.	**Gross**	**$24,547,600**	**$200,000**
	Federal	2,129,600	0
	Restricted	22,418,000	200,000
	GF/GP	$0	$0
16. Fisheries Equipment (One-Time)	**Gross**	**$0**	**$200,000**
Includes $200,000 from the Game and Fish Protection Account for equipment to be used at state fisheries.	Restricted	0	200,000
	GF/GP	$0	$0
17. Hartwick Pines Visitor Center Upgrades (One-Time)	**Gross**	**$0**	**$200,000**
Adds $200,000 from the State Park Improvement Fund for upgrades to the visitor center at Harwick Pines State Park in Crawford County.	Restricted	0	200,000
	GF/GP	$0	$0
18. Natural Resources Heritage – Kirtland's Warbler Management	FTE	9.0	0.0
Appropriates $150,000 in private funding from the Nongame Wildlife Fund to manage Kirtland's Warbler habitat.	**Gross**	**$661,800**	**$150,000**
	Federal	209,300	0
	Private	0	150,000
	Restricted	452,500	0
	GF/GP	$0	$0

Major Budget Changes from FY 2025-26 Year-to-Date (YTD) Appropriations		FY 2025-26 Year-to-Date (as of 2/11/26)	FY 2026-27 Enacted Change
19. Technical Adjustments	**Gross**	**NA**	**$4,021,700**
Includes $4.0 million Gross ($0 GF/GP) for technical adjustments to align expenditures and increased available state restricted revenues ($2.7 million) and federal revenues ($1.3 million).	Federal	NA	1,300,000
	Restricted	NA	2,721,700
	GF/GP	NA	$0
20. Internal Authorization Shifts	**Gross**	**NA**	**$0**
Shifts $2.8 million cumulative from the Game and Fish Protection Account and ORV trail Improvement Fund between seven appropriations for a net zero change to move funding from grant programs to ongoing operations.	Restricted	NA	0
	GF/GP	NA	$0
21. Removal of FY 2025-26 One-Time Appropriations	**Gross**	**$10,200,000**	**($10,200,000)**
Removes $10.0 million GF/GP of one-time funding that was included in the FY 2025-26 budget to support the following: • Elberta waterfront community conservation project ($1.8 million GF/GP) • Fish production one-time ($2.8 million GF/GP) • Ice storm wildfire protection ($2.0 million GF/GP) • Reforestation ($2.2 million GF/GP) • Removal and repair of high-hazard dams ($1.5 million GF/GP).	GF/GP	$10,200,000	($10,200,000)
22. Economic Adjustments	**Gross**	**NA**	**$5,551,100**
Reflects increased costs of $5.6 million Gross ($889,200 GF/GP) for negotiated salary and wage increases (3.0% on October 1, 2026), actuarially required retirement contributions, worker's compensation, building occupancy charges, rent, and other economic adjustments.	IDG	NA	200
	Federal	NA	683,600
	Restricted	NA	3,978,100
	GF/GP	NA	$889,200

Major Boilerplate Changes from FY 2025-26

Sec. 254. Solar and Wind Project Prohibition **– DELETED**
Prohibits the department from using funds in part 1 for utility scale solar or wind development projects. *(Document from the State Budget Office dated November 7 noted this section is unenforceable in FY 2025-26.)*

Sec. 283. Prohibition on Expending Funds for Legal Actions Against Swine Hunting **– DELETED**
Prohibits the department from using funds in part 1 for legal services against hunting operation concerning swine. *(Document from the State Budget Office dated November 7 noted this section is unenforceable in FY 2025-26.)*

Sec. 285. References to State-managed Lands **– DELETED**
States that state lands managed by the department shall be identified as department-managed public lands or publicly owned lands. *(Document from the State Budget Office dated November 7 noted this section is unenforceable in FY 2025-26.)*

Sec. 286. Contingency Authorization for New Hunting and Fishing License Revenue **– DELETED**
Allows for the legislative transfer process to increase state restricted authorization by up to $30.0 million if legislation is enacted to raise hunting and fishing license prices.

Sec. 305. Snowmobile Trail Improvement Fund and ORV Trail Improvement Fund Restrictions **– NEW**
Imposes restrictions on the expenditure of the Snowmobile Improvement Fund and ORV Trail Improvement Fund for administrative purposes.

Sec. 501. Little Manistee River Designation Prohibition **– DELETED**
Prohibits Fisheries Resource Management funding from being expended to designate the Little Manistee River as a natural river as defined in Part 305 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. *(Document from the State Budget Office dated November 7 noted this section is unenforceable in FY 2025-26.)*

Sec. 502. Recreational Boating **– NEW**
Earmarks $200,000 from Recreational Boating funding for Gray Haven State Harbor operations and prohibits earmarked funding from being expended on the St. Jean Boat Launch.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Major Boilerplate Changes from FY 2025-26

Sec. 601. Allegan State Game Area Expanded Use **– NEW**
Requires the department to collaborate with Allegan County to develop a plan that expands public use in the Allegan State Game Area.

Sec. 701. Recreation Passport Selection **– DELETED**
Requires the department to provide the choice to opt in to purchasing a Recreation Passport. *(Document from the State Budget Office dated November 7 noted this section is unenforceable in FY 2025-26.)*

Sec. 1201. Whitefish Recovery **– NEW**
Requires the department to support efforts to recover and monitor up to three lake whitefish stocks; requires funding to be used for spawning and rearing activities and post-stocking assessment and evaluation necessary to support lake whitefish stock recovery; allows department to contract with qualified nonprofit, research-based organizations to implement a lake whitefish stock recovery plan; requires the use of department-owned hatchery facilities or facilities owned or operated by partners contracted under this section; requires that funds appropriated under this section not be used for operational expenses or for the support of full time equated positions or permanent state positions, allows the department to use limited-term employees.

Sec. 1202. State Water Trail Organizations **– NEW**
Requires the funding in part 1 for state water trail organizations for be distributed equally among the state's water trails and prohibits funding from being expended for personnel costs.

FY 2025-26 Supplemental Appropriation Items **Public Act 21 of 2026 (Senate Bill 878, Article 18)**		**Appropriation Change**
1. Gas Tax Revenue Distribution Includes $13.6 million in state restricted gas tax revenue in accordance with statutory formula across multiple appropriations to support boating, snowmobiling, and recreational trails programs.	**Gross** Restricted GF/GP	**$13,628,000** 13,628,000 $0
2. Capital Outlay – Dam Infrastructure Projects Appropriates $5.0 million from the Game and Fish Protection Account to repair some of the approximately 200 state-owned dams on Michigan waterways.	**Gross** Restricted GF/GP	**$5,000,000** 5,000,000 $0
3. Capital Outlay – Fisheries Infrastructure Includes $7.0 million in state restricted Game and Fish Protection Account funds to support fish hatchery improvements statewide. Of the total, $2.0 million will be used for the new cool water facility at Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery in Van Buren County.	**Gross** Restricted GF/GP	**$7,000,000** 7,000,000 $0
4. Capital Outlay – State Game and Wildlife Area Infrastructure Includes $10.0 million in state restricted Game and Fish Protection Account funds to support state game and wildlife area infrastructure improvements.	**Gross** Restricted GF/GP	**$10,000,000** 10,000,000 $0
5. Fisheries Infrastructure Includes $4.0 million from the Game and Fish Protection Account to repair and upgrade the egg collection facilities and fish weirs on the Little Manistee River and the Platte River.	**Gross** Restricted GF/GP	**$4,000,000** 4,000,000 $0
6. Wildlife Management Includes $3.2 million in state restricted Game and Fish Protection Account funds to support Michigan's participation in the Chronic Wasting Disease Research Consortium Study.	**Gross** Restricted GF/GP	**$3,221,400** 3,221,400 $0

FY 2025-26 Supplemental Boilerplate Items
Public Act 21 of 2026 (Senate Bill 878, Article 18)

Sec. 601. Wildlife Management
Designates unexpended funds appropriated for State Sites Cleanup Program as a work project appropriation; funds will support Michigan's participation in the Chronic Wasting Disease Research Consortium Study.