



# FY 2026 Executive Budget Overview

DNR Director  
Scott Bowen

April 30th, 2025

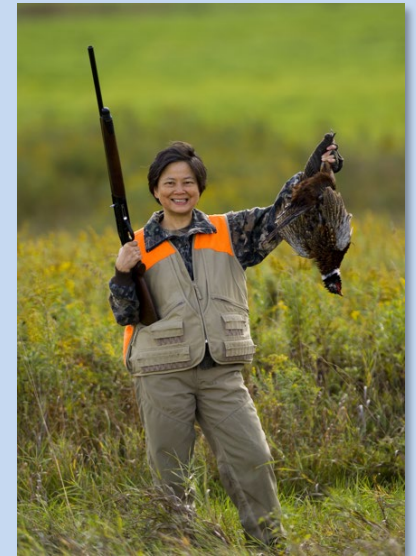






# Michigan's Natural Resource Economy

- Recreational boating industry generates \$11.7 billion in economic impact and supports 45,010 jobs.
- Hunting industry generates \$8.8 billion in economic impact and supports 135,579 jobs.
- Fishing industry generates \$3.9 billion in economic impact and supports 35,422 jobs.
- Other air/land/water industries like trail activities, camping, skiing and snowboarding generate an additional \$2 billion in economic impact.





# Michigan's Natural Resource Economy

- Oil and natural gas industries generate \$30.0 billion in economic impact and support 228,000 jobs.
- Forest products industry generates \$26.5 billion in economic impact and supports 88,275 jobs.
- Mining industry generates \$3.5 billion in economic impact and supports 31,371 jobs.







# Responsible for Recreation and Natural and Cultural Resources

- 4.5 million acres of public hunting lands, including 3.9 million acres of state forests.
- 6 million acres of mineral rights.
- 202 state wildlife areas, including 187 game areas and 7 managed waterfowl areas.
- Responsible for managing and protecting 400 wildlife species.





# Responsible for Recreation and Natural and Cultural Resources

- 11,000 lakes, 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline and 20,000 miles of trout/salmon streams.
- 6 hatcheries supply more than 50% of Great Lakes trout and salmon.
- You are never more than 6 miles from fishable water, and you can fish 365 days a year!



*Michigan has the most diverse freshwater fishing in world!*





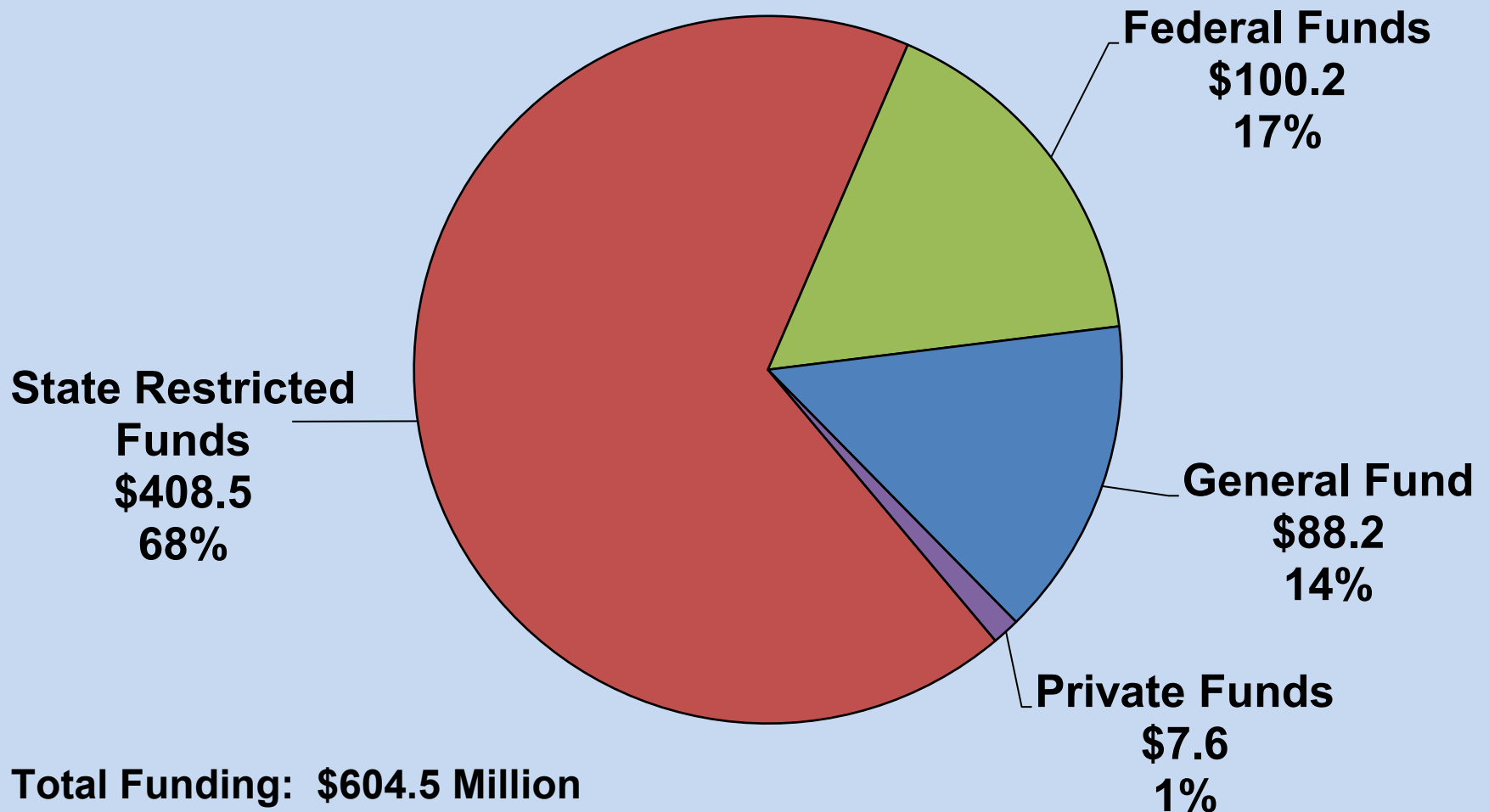
# Responsible for Recreation and Natural and Cultural Resources

- 103 state parks
- 145 state forest campgrounds
- 1,300 boat launches
- 82 state harbors along the Great Lakes
- More than 12,000 miles of trails
- 12 museums and historic sites





# FY 2026 DNR Executive Budget Funding Sources





# Recreation Passport Opt-Out and Resident Military Exemption

- **Objective:** Help sustain infrastructure and preventative maintenance funding for Michigan state parks by converting the Recreation Passport to an opt-out model, while honoring the state's military service members by providing them free lifetime access to Michigan's state parks.
- **Investment:** \$17.2 million ongoing State Restricted Funds







# Recreation Passport Opt-Out and Resident Military Exemption

## Additional Recreation Passport Revenue Will Support the Following:

• State Park Capital Outlay	\$8.6 million
• State Park Operations & Maintenance	\$5.2 million
• Local Public Recreation Facilities Grants	\$1.7 million
• State Forest Campgrounds & Pathways	\$1.2 million
• State Park Cultural & Historic Resources	\$0.5 million
• Promotion of State Parks & Recreation Areas	< \$0.1 million
	<hr/>
	≈ \$17.2 million



Estimated increase in  
annual revenue at a  
60% participation rate



# Time to Invest in Natural Resources

- **Objective:** Right size the costs of hunting, fishing, and boating in Michigan to combat the effects of inflation, meet increased demands and changing uses, support fish and wildlife management activities, and address boating safety and infrastructure needs.



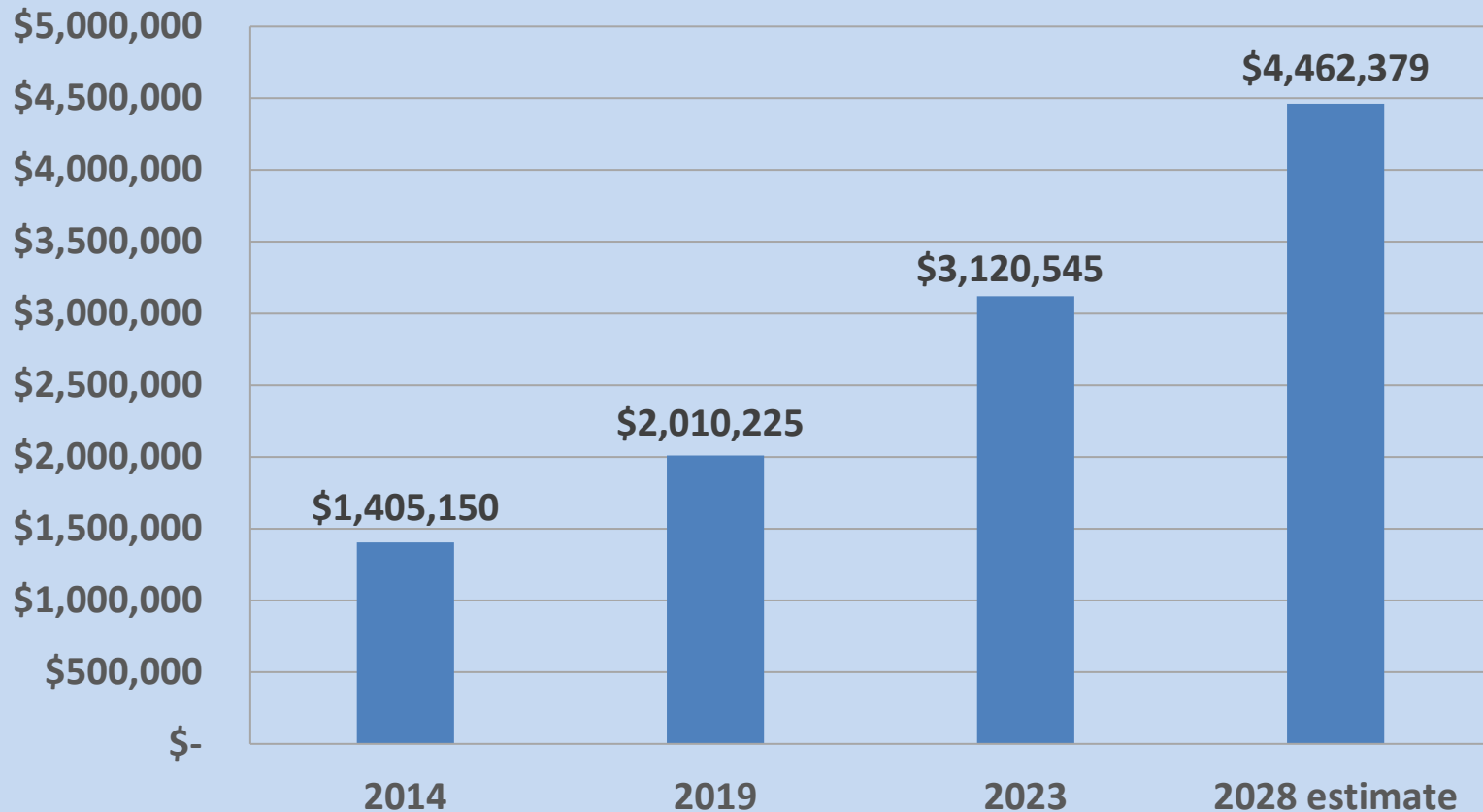
- **Investment:** \$29 million ongoing State Restricted Funds





# Inflation Erodes our Buying Power

**Wildlife Division Maintenance Costs**





# Impact on Fish/Wildlife Services

- Reductions in programs like inland creel and habitat grants to partners
- Reduction in maintenance of driveways, toilet facilities, parking lots
- Inability to respond to wildlife issues, invasive species or disease, and conflicts between user groups
- Reduction in fish/wildlife health monitoring and disease response







# Fish/Wildlife Infrastructure Needs

- Assets valued at more than \$350 million
- Emergency repairs due to deferred maintenance and outdated equipment
- Deferred maintenance estimated at \$140 million, excluding dams





# Waterways Needs and Impacts

- Repair/replace infrastructure at state harbors, docks, and boating access sites.
- Boating safety education, enforcement, equipment, and equipment storage needs.







# State Dam Repair or Removal

- **Objective:** Remove or repair DNR-managed dams that are potential hazards to public health and safety and a disruption to fish and wildlife habitat.
- **Investment:** \$15 million one-time General Fund





# FY 2025 Supplemental Requests

- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund: \$41.8 million (State Restricted)
- Game and Fish Operations and Capital Improvements: \$6.5 million (State Restricted)
- Arctic Grayling Fish Passage: \$2.5 million (Federal)
- High-Speed Internet Infrastructure Easement Support: \$1.4 million (Federal)
- Great Lakes Fishing Decree: \$613,200 (General Fund)







# Questions?

Learn more about outdoor recreation opportunities at  
[Michigan.gov/DNR](https://Michigan.gov/DNR).