

DNR – Wildlife Procedure

Disposal of Wildlife Carcasses and Parts

Background

In the normal course of managing Michigan's wildlife, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff (most frequently Wildlife and Law Enforcement Divisions) encounter dead wildlife of many species. This procedure addresses the proper disposal of the wildlife carcasses that come into the possession of the DNR. This procedure is established under the authority of Part 401, Wildlife Conservation, P.A. 451 of 1994.

Local Disposal of Wildlife

The proper disposal of wildlife specimens depends on the species of animal, the condition of the carcass, and the circumstances of collection. Unless otherwise specified in this procedure, the disposal of wildlife carcasses should occur locally, in a manner that is appropriate to protect human health, public safety, and is environmentally responsible. Property not required for department use or not disposed through the Wildlife Disease Laboratory (WDL) shall be destroyed. Wildlife specimens and their parts shall not be retained for personal use.

Disposal through the Wildlife Disease Laboratory

Wildlife that must be sent to the WDL include the following:

- Wildlife where cause of death is not clear or where there is concern about disease or environmental contaminants,
- Wildlife that are part of approved wildlife harvest surveys or wildlife health studies,
- Wildlife that are regulated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (except for waterfowl and other common migratory bird species where procedures allow for local documentation of possession and local disposal),
- Wildlife that are on the state or federal list of threatened or endangered species,
- Wildlife that would provide useable parts that have been requested for scientific or educational use.

Wildlife Parts List

The WDL will maintain a list of wildlife species and parts that have been requested by recognized organizations. The WDL will periodically update this list and distribute the list to all appropriate DNR personnel.

Requesting Wildlife Parts

Recognized organizations can submit a request to the WDL for donation of wildlife parts. Each request must be for a specific wildlife species and must include information on the specific parts needed, the quantity of these parts, and the intended use of these parts.

Priorities for Filling Requests

Recognizing the relative abundance of wildlife parts, the individual condition of specimens collected, and other circumstances associated with each request, filling requests will be based on the following priorities (in descending order of importance):

1. Scientific investigations that benefit the conservation and management of the species,
2. Departmental (DNR) educational uses either as part of an interpretive display or for use in educational activities,
3. Educational activities associated with a public museum, other public facilities, nature centers, or non-profit organization facilities where substantial public contact occurs,
4. Educational use by school systems or non-profit organizations,
5. Display within a DNR or other state, county or local government facility

Using the above criteria, and using the list of organizations requesting specific wildlife parts, the WDL will decide the disposition of all wildlife parts submitted to the WDL. In the case of federally listed species, the Endangered Species Specialist must be notified. The Specialist will be responsible for coordinating any permitting and disposal issues with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Before any wildlife parts are transferred to a requesting organization, the WDL will determine that the organization has all necessary state and federal permits to possess those wildlife parts.

Species Requested for Scientific or Educational Use

A list of requests for carcasses or wildlife parts will be maintained and updated by WDL for the following species.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Moose	<i>Alces alces</i>
Gray Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>