**Forest-Related Acts/Policies**

**Forest Reserve Organic Administration Act, 1897:** Established custodial management direction for the Forest Service by mandating that no forest shall be established except to improve and protect the forest within presidentially-created boundaries. Defined the purpose of the forest reserves as being to "secure favorable conditions of water flow and furnish a continuous supply of timber by preserving living and growing timber and promoting young growth on the national forests."

**Transfer Act, 1905:** Transferred the administration of the US Forest Service to the Department of Agriculture.

**Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act, 1960:** Defines purpose of national forests as being for "outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes." Defines multiple use as "the management of all of the various renewable surface resources of the national forests to that they are utilized in the combination that bests meet the needs of the American people," and sustained yield as "the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regulated output of the various renewable resources of the national forests without impairment of the productivity of the land."

**National Forest Management Act, 1976:** This act amends the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resource Planning Act of 1974 and the Organic Administration Act of 1897 by requiring land and resource management planning for units within the national forest system and additional regulation of timber harvesting on national forests. It also requires public participation in the planning process, regulations for the preparation and revision of management plans, resource management guidelines for controversial activities, and economic analysis of management alternatives.

**Parks-Related Acts/Policies**

**Yellowstone Act, 1872:** As the parks enabling legislation, it preserves the watershed of the Yellowstone River "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people." It was put under the "exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior," and the land was "reserved and withdrawn from settlement, occupancy, or sale under the laws of the United States, and dedicated and set apart as a public park or pleasuring-ground..." (www.nps.gov/legacy/legacy).

**National Park Service Organic Act, 1916:** Created the National Park Service as an entity under the authority of the Department of the Interior. It ordered the NPS to promote and regulate the use of Federal areas known as national parks, monuments and reservations, in order to "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment for the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

**Wilderness Act, 1964:** Establishes the National Wilderness Preservation System. Defines wilderness as "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrampled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain," and an undeveloped Federal area "retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined tap of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value" (16 USC 1131 (a)).
Land and Water Conservation Act, 1965: This act establishes a fund, administered by the National Park Service, “to assist the States and federal agencies in meeting present and future outdoor recreation demands and needs of the American people.” Three main sources supply the funds: sales of federal surplus real properties, a part of federal motorboat fuel taxes, and Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) revenues from leasing of oil and gas sites in coastal waters. The act stipulates that not less than 40% of every annual appropriation from the fund goes toward acquisition of recreation and conservation lands specifically authorized within areas administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management. Additional funds are made available to the states for 50% matching grants. A site that has been acquired, developed, or rehabilitated with this grant money cannot be converted to non-recreational use except where approved by the National Park Service and replaced with lands of equal market and recreational value.

National Trails System Act, 1968: Establishes a national system of recreational, scenic, and historic trails and prescribes the methods/standards for adding to the system.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 1968: Establishes a system by which to protect the unique characteristics of certain rivers and maintain their free-flowing condition.

General Authorities Act, 1970: Includes all areas administered by the NPS into one National Park System.

Other Acts/Policies

Outdoor Recreation Act, 1963: Described the Interior Department’s role as the coordinator of all federal agencies for programs affecting the conservation and development of recreation resources. It set up the requirement that the Secretary of the Interior develop a national recreation plan and provide technical assistance to states, local government and private interests to promote conservation and the utilization of recreation resources.

National Environmental Protection Act, 1969: The main purpose was to declare a national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation; and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality. It requires a systematic evaluation of federal actions that includes all reasonable alternatives and an analysis of short-, long-term, irretrievable, irreversible, and unavoidable impacts.

Clean Air Act, 1970: The purpose of this act was to establish a nationwide program for the prevention and control of air pollution and establishes National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration provisions, the act requires federal officials responsible for the management of Class I Areas (national parks and wilderness areas) to protect the air quality related values of each area, and to consult with permitting authorities regarding possible adverse impacts from new or modified emitting facilities.

Clean Water Act (Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 1972): Sets objectives for the restoration or maintenance of the chemical, physical or biological integrity of the nation’s waters. Regulates pollution discharge and requires agencies to avoid adverse impacts from the modification or destruction of navigable streams and associated tributaries, wetlands, or other waters (www.nps.gov/legacy).
**Endangered Species Act, 1973**: Requires federal agencies to ensure that any authorized action does not jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in damage to critical habitat.

**Michigan Legislation and Bill Tracking**

The following web links are sites where current Michigan bills can be seen and tracked through their various versions. They include the Michigan Department of Natural Resources legislation page where natural resources related bills are announced along with the DNR’s views toward them as well as Michigan House and Senate web pages where the bills can be followed from their introduction to their passing/defeat.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Page: [http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/](http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/)

For legislative info, click on the legislative info link.
Michigan Legislature: [http://www.michiganlegislature.org](http://www.michiganlegislature.org)