

Over nearly 35 years, the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy has completed hundreds of habitat restoration projects.

- Thousands of acres of wetlands restored on both public and private lands.
- Prairie restoration
- Stream improvements
- Demonstration projects





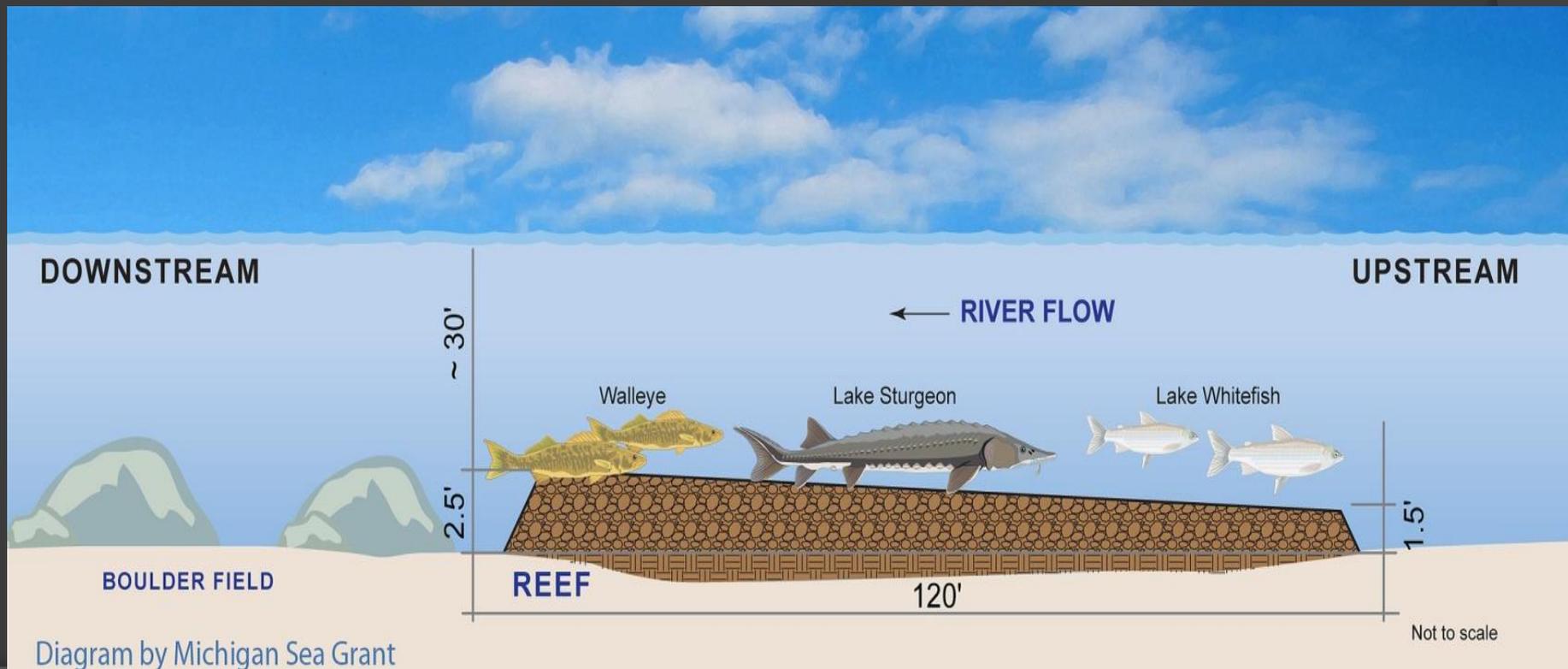
MWC works in partnership with state and federal agencies, local governments, conservation groups, businesses, and individuals.



- Lake sturgeon are among the many species benefitting from MWC projects.
- Lake sturgeon numbers are at about 1% of pre-settlement levels.
- Successful spawning is key to recovery of this threatened species.



MWC has worked as a contract administrator and technical advisor to federal agencies and others to help construct 4 major sturgeon spawning reefs.



Research is showing reefs can boost lake sturgeon recovery in the Great Lakes and also benefit other species such as walleye and whitefish.



MWC has also been involved in important research.

- Wild turkey recovery
- Invasive plant control
- Determining status of rare mammals



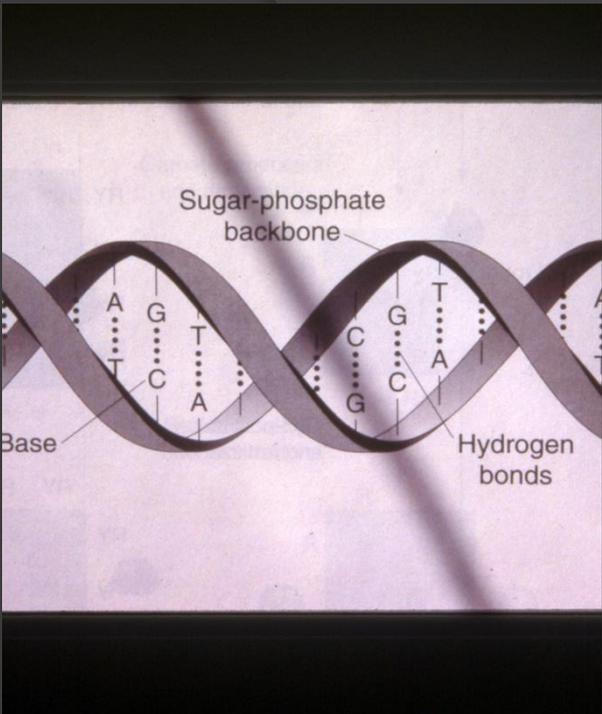
MWC's research on the endangered cougar in Michigan has garnered national attention.



MWC began cougar research in 2000 and has since published several major papers on the species.

MWC conducted field studies in conjunction with Central Michigan University that revealed a resident population of cougars.





MWC's research has been a game changer, forcing a rethinking of the cougar's status

- DNR confirmations of cougars in Michigan 1906-2008: Zero
- DNR confirmations of cougars in Michigan 2008-present: ~40



- MWC is committed to working with citizen scientists to achieve better understanding of Michigan's rare mammals and other natural resources.
- In the past 15 years, citizens have found nearly a dozen species that “aren’t supposed to be here.”



Wolves and
Fishers in the Lower
Peninsula



WILD HOG CONTROL



FOR NEARLY 15 YEARS, THE MICHIGAN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY HAS BEEN A LEADER IN THE FIGHT TO CONTROL WILD HOGS IN OUR STATE

- Michigan is one of more than 40 states with populations of wild hogs.
- Our problem is largely the result of escapes that started around 2001 at game ranches and other facilities.
- The wild hogs – mostly Eurasian wild boars – reproduced in the wild and have caused crop damage and other problems.

WE ARE FACING EURASIAN WILD HOGS, NOT FARM PIGS!



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The wild hogs were brought into game ranches precisely because they tend to be taller at the shoulder, leaner, meaner, and faster than domestic pigs and most hybrids.

WILD HOGS DESTROY PROPERTY!

- “Sounders” consisting of a dominant female, a few other females, and some young hogs can destroy corn, bean and wheat fields, and root up lawns.
- Depending on the size of the sounder, the wild hogs can destroy several acres of crops in just a day, or tear up a yard of hay in a few hours.



WILD HOGS ARE EVERYBODY'S PROBLEM!

- In addition to destroying property, wild hogs are predators on native species, including deer fawns, and they can spread diseases.
- Wild hogs can carry or transmit more than 30 diseases and 37 parasites that potentially affect livestock, pets, wildlife, and even people.

... EVERYBODY'S PROBLEM!

In Michigan, the highly contagious PSEUDORABIES is a top concern. Millions were spent eradicating pseudorabies in domestic swine. A recurrence could devastate Michigan's pork producing industry.

... EVERYBODY'S PROBLEM!

Wild hogs can also carry the same type of tuberculosis that affects cattle.



THE MICHIGAN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY RESPONDED BY:

- Conceiving and developing a Michigan Wild Hog Removal Program in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Michigan Pork Producers Association, and other groups.
- The program focused on training landowners and volunteers to detect and trap hogs, lending traps to landowners, and public education.

... RESPONSES

The Conservancy also played a role in supporting a statewide ban on importing or raising wild hogs that went into effect in 2010.



DETECTING WILD HOGS

- Early detection is the first step in controlling wild hogs. They are nocturnal so most landowners have wild hogs around long before they ever see one.
- Detection Methods:
 - Trail cameras over bait
 - Looking for signs



REPORT ALL WILD HOGS!

The Wildlife Conservancy is asking citizens to report the presence of wild hogs to USDA Wildlife Services at 517-336-1928 or via email at timothy.s.wilson@aphis.usda.gov. Wild hogs are nomadic, that is, they don't stay long in any location. So, it is important that citizens report wild hogs immediately when they spot animals or see hog sign.