



# MICHIGAN UNITED *Since 1937* CONSERVATION CLUBS

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*Uniting Citizens to Conserve, Protect and Enhance Michigan's Natural Resources and Outdoor Heritage*

## Michigan Pheasant Hunting Initiative

We respectfully ask for you to support **HB 4313**, a bill that would create a pheasant hunting stamp to establish a user-paid revenue stream to maintain the Michigan Pheasant Hunting Initiative and provide funds for habitat restoration across the state. Similar programs have proven successful at increasing pheasant populations and pheasant hunters in other Great Lake states like Wisconsin, Minnesota and Pennsylvania.

In December of 2018, the Michigan State Legislature approved funds to implement the Michigan Pheasant Hunting Initiative (MPHI). This program will facilitate pheasant releases on public land across the state with the hopes of introducing youth and adult non-hunters to small game hunting. However, long-term funding for MPHI is not guaranteed. As a part of this program, 2019 pheasant hunters are required to possess a free pheasant stamp on their hunting license. They will have the opportunity to pursue released pheasants that will be strategically placed on the following state game areas (SGAs):

- St. Johns Marsh (St. Clair County)
- Pointe Mouillee (Monroe County)
- Crow Island (Saginaw County)
- Lapeer (Lapeer County)
- Erie (Monroe County)
- Pinconning (Bay County)
- Crane Pond (Cass County)
- Rose Lake (Clinton County)
- Cornish (Cass County)
- Minden City (Sanilac County)
- Leidy Lake (St. Joseph County)
- Shiawassee – **Learn to Hunt event** (Saginaw County)
- Allegan – **Learn to Hunt event** (Allegan County)

Areas were selected to maximize hunting opportunities and to recruit, retain and reactivate hunters throughout the Lower Peninsula. Two SGAs, Shiawassee and Allegan, will host special Learn to Hunt events to provide greater opportunities for new hunters. This program will be assessed in the spring of 2020 and further hunting and habitat improvement projects will be scheduled.

Today, we ask you to support HB 4313. Help maintain the Michigan Pheasant Hunting Initiative and create sustained pheasant hunting opportunities in this state for years to come.





**Resolution #2017-07**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Ken Dalton, Individual Member  
**MUCC Region:** 8  
**Passed:** MUCC Annual Convention, June 17, 2017  
**Title:** **MICHIGAN PHEASANT RELEASE FOR HUNTER  
RECRUITMENT**

- 1   **WHEREAS**, the current regulations state that pheasants not established in the wild (farmed) in  
2   the state may be released and shot on licensed preserves; and
- 3   **WHEREAS**, individuals may buy birds from licensed breeders of pheasants to release on their  
4   own private land to hunt as well, but are prohibited (with some exceptions as allowed by the land  
5   manager) from releasing ring-necked pheasants and other game birds on state-owned lands; and
- 6   **WHEREAS**, The Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative (MPRI) is a conservation initiative to  
7   restore and enhance Michigan pheasant habitat, populations and hunting opportunity on private  
8   and public lands; and
- 9   **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has discontinued its own  
10   pheasant breeding and release program; and
- 11   **WHEREAS**, there is a large segment of hunters who recall their first experience in hunting was  
12   through pheasant and other small game and wish to pass this experience on to generations to  
13   come; and
- 14   **WHEREAS**, the “Michigan Pheasant Release for Hunter Recruitment” initiative has a mission  
15   to recruit and retain our pheasant hunting heritage as many other states are already doing through  
16   release; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the desired outcome is to release pheasants on state game areas in order to recruit  
18 and retain small game hunters and provide opportunity for success because of the yearly decline  
19 in young hunters; and

20 **WHEREAS**, this is not a program to re-establish a pheasant population, this is strictly for hunter  
21 recruitment, retention and opportunity; and

22 **WHEREAS**, The Natural Resources Commission, in consultation with DNR biologists, would  
23 establish and oversee the source of pheasants and breeding standards (whether private breeders  
24 or DNR facilities are used), release guidelines (not to do it in an area of bird disease, only to  
25 release in well-established habitat on publicly-accessible lands, etc) and any other regulations or  
26 policy necessary; and

27 **WHEREAS**, there is a goal to establish a long-term, user-pay funding source through either the  
28 creation of a pheasant stamp or purchasing separate pheasant tags (as we do for deer and turkey);  
29 and

30 **WHEREAS**, this investment will give opportunity and provide additional income to local game  
31 bird breeders, dog breeders, sporting goods stores, restaurants, hotels, and many more. **NOW**,

32 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work  
33 with the Michigan Legislature, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Natural  
34 Resources Commission (NRC) to support the Michigan Pheasant Release for Hunter  
35 Recruitment with the mission, goals, and outcomes indicated.