



New Report: Use of Michigan Natural Resources Outpacing Population Growth

‘Population, Consumption Having Impact on Michigan’s Environment, Quality of Life’

Ann Arbor, MI (June 29, 2006)—Michigan is consuming land, using energy, and losing productive farmland at a rate that is far outpacing the state’s population growth, according to a new report that details the impacts of human population on the state’s natural resources.

“This report underscores a simple, but often-overlooked fact: population and consumption related issues are having a considerable impact on Michigan’s environment and quality of life,” said Marisa Rinkus, author of the report and Great Lakes population and environment outreach coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation. “The science is in and the trends are clear. The question is, ‘What are Michigan leaders going to do about it?’”

The Center for Environment and Population (CEP) and National Wildlife Federation released the report which shows how human population growth, movement, density and resource consumption affect the environment, resources and wildlife at the state level.

Key findings of the *Michigan State Report on Population and the Environment* include:

- Land development in the state is occurring eight times faster than the population grows.
- While the population grew by 12% over the past three decades, the number of households increased by 43%.
- Energy consumption has increased three times the annual population growth rate.
- Michigan loses almost 40,000 acres of productive farmland per year.

- Nearly one-half of Michigan’s population resides in a coastal county, with effects on the habitat of many species of birds, mammals and fish.
- Due to the effects of climate change, by 2100 Michigan’s summer temperatures could be like those in Northern Arkansas.

“Michigan is not alone in grappling with these issues,” said Victoria Markham, Director of the Center for Environment and Population (CEP). “Population changes loom large over how people manage their natural resources all across the United States, and around the world. Yet this groundbreaking report reveals dramatic statewide trends—a new way of looking at people’s impact in the nation.”

The United States represents about 5 percent of the world’s population, yet consumes higher amounts of nearly every resource than any other country in the world-- and Michigan is no exception.

The report is the second in a series of *U.S. State Reports on Population and the Environment*, published by the Center for Environment and Population (CEP). The series of state reports and CEP’s new *U.S. National Report on Population and the Environment* provide balanced, science-based information in easy-to-understand formats, made widely available to a broad audience.

“As the report makes clear,” said Rinkus, “we have the power and responsibility to make decisions to ensure a healthy environment for people and wildlife for generations to come.”

Read the report at: www.nwf.org/news and www.cepnet.org.

The Center for Environment and Population (CEP) is a non-profit research, policy, and public outreach organization that addresses the relationship between human population, resource consumption, and the natural environment through science-based, user-friendly projects.

The National Wildlife Federation is America’s conservation organization, inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children’s future.

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Contacts:

Vicky Markham, CEP, 203-966-3425; vmarkham@cepnet.org
Marisa Rinkus, NWF, 734-769-3351 x 21; rinkus@nwf.org
Jordan Lubetkin, NWF, 734-769-3351 x 23; lubetkin@nwf.org