With the help of hunters and partners, the DNR is developing a series of intensively managed, walk-in access ruffed grouse hunting areas across the northern Lower and Upper Peninsulas. The areas are called GEMS – Grouse Enhanced Management System.

GEMS goals
• Provide unique, walk-in hunting opportunities
• Promote hunter recruitment and retention
• Expand local economies
• Provide a destination point for the traveling wing-shooter
• Accelerate timber harvest opportunities

GEMS are:
• 1,000 to 7,000 acres in size
• Managed primarily for aspen with a shortened rotation age (40 years vs the standard 60 years)
• Two tracks (logging roads) will be gated in order to provide “walking trails” through well managed grouse habitat without concern for passing vehicles
• The DNR is committed to developing 10 GEMS in the NLP and UP by 2016

Adventure Opportunities
GEMS will provide adventure opportunities for a variety of hunter types – youth, adults new to the sport, and seniors. GEMS are the perfect place to mentor youth hunters in secure areas. Seniors will have a more leisurely opportunity with minimal terrain challenges. First time grouse hunters may be more comfortable with easily marked trails and maps. These sites will also be destination points for travelers who wish to move across the state from one GEMS location to the next. And, our Wounded Warriors may find these ideal areas to hunt given the easier mobility access.

• Although these lands are managed for grouse, hunters will also have success in finding woodcock, snowshoe hare, and deer.
• Birders, in search of early successional species, will also enjoy walking these trails as well as wildlife viewers enjoying the overall scenery.

Partnerships
The DNR is looking for partners with large landholdings to create additional GEMS sites and local businesses that can assist in promoting the trail system. If individuals visit a GEMS site, they could receive discounts at local establishments. We want to encourage hunters to experience this unique hunting opportunity and in turn spend their time and money, which will enhance the local communities.

Partners To-date
• Michigan Department of Natural Resources
• City of Marquette
• Ruffed Grouse Society
• Hiawatha National Forest
• Ottawa National Forest
• The Community Foundation (Escanaba)
• Plum Creek
• Huron-Manistee National Forest

www.michigan.gov/hunting
GEMS Locations

Upper Peninsula
- Ottawa
  Gogebic County, Marenisco Township
- Ralph
  Dickinson County, West Branch Township
- South Marquette
  Marquette County, Forsyth Township
- Strickler
  Mackinaw County, Hudson Township
- Drummond Island
  Chippewa County, Drummond Township

Lower Peninsula
- Lee Grande Ranch
  Cheboygan County, Koehler Township
- Lame Duck Foot Access Area
  Gladwin County, Bourret Township

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