



# Inside Illinois DNR

October 2016

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## IDNR Careers

*The Illinois Department of Natural Resources offers a wide array of professional careers in the conservation and natural resource arena. [Click here](#) to see what jobs openings are available.*

## A Message from Director Wayne Rosenthal



News reports throughout the summer and early autumn have often included harrowing images of wildland fires incinerating woodlands, and sometimes hundreds of homes, at locations throughout the western United States.

Whether it is in the upland woods of an Illinois state park, on a ridge at one of our Illinois state forests, or in the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois, preventing wildland fires is a priority for natural area land managers right in our own backyard. On standby to help coordinate the response to a wildland fire in Illinois is the IDNR Interagency Wildland Fire Crew.

Under the leadership of IDNR State Forester Tom Wilson, the Illinois wildland fire crew is part of a vast network of federal agencies, state and local fire departments, and state foresters who work through the National Interagency Fire Center to coordinate wildland fire policymaking, planning, strategy and emergency response.

Our 20-member Illinois wildland fire crew is on call to help provide primary fire protection and response wherever they're needed.

In August, they were deployed to help battle the Wild 7 fire in the Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge in northeast Montana, and later were dispatched for duty in the Lolo National Forest near Missoula, Montana. They returned home, safe and sound, following two weeks of duty.

The IDNR has been training and sponsoring qualified wildland firefighters since 2004. Illinois personnel have worked wildland fires here in Illinois, as well as in Arizona, California, Georgia, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. All deployment expenses are reimbursed by the U.S. Forest Service.

How important is it to have these highly-training firefighters on call? As of late September, mostly in the western U.S., more than 44,000 fires had affected more than 4.8 million acres of wildlands this year alone. During the last 10 years, the U.S. has had an annual average of more than 58,000 wildland fires on nearly 6.3 million acres.

I am proud of the members of our Illinois Interagency Wildland Fire Crew. Their rigorous training and up-close experience with wildland fires provide the expertise needed to assist Illinois landowners and land managers with wildland fire protection and prescribed fire operations right here at home.

## DNR in the news

Mural at Goose Lake Prairie

Rock River Sweep

Urban Fishing Program

Packed Starved Rock State Park

## Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL  
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL  
847-608-3100

Benton, IL  
618-435-8138

Chicago, IL  
312-814-2070

Clinton, IL  
217-935-6860

## Highlights



### Governor Rauner Celebrates Illinois' Hunting Heritage on National Hunting and Fishing Day

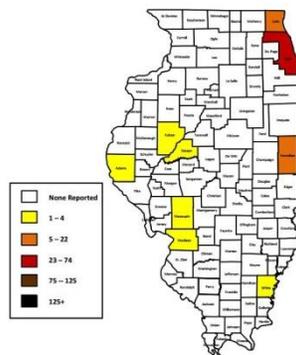
In observance of National Hunting and Fishing Day on September 24, Governor Rauner has directed the IDNR to take steps to make participation in hunting and fishing more accessible for current and future generations. The Governor's vision is to make IDNR's Hunter Safety Education program a leader in the nation by employing the latest techniques and technology. [For more information click here](#)



### IDNR to Conduct Chronic Wasting Disease Public Meetings

IDNR has scheduled two additional public meetings to provide information about CWD, its effect on future deer populations, and IDNR's efforts to control the disease. IDNR staff will also be available to answer questions about this disease. Landowners, hunters, and concerned citizens are encouraged to attend. CWD is an important issue that will dominate deer management discussions in northern Illinois for many years. [For more information click here](#)

2016 ILLINOIS EHD: 53 Dead Deer Reported (9/15/2016)



### Hunters, Landowners Encouraged to Report Suspected Cases of EHD

The IDNR has received reports of 53 suspected cases of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) as of 9/21/16. EHD appears to be more prevalent in east-central and northeastern Illinois counties, including Cook, Lake and Vermilion counties where tests have confirmed the presence of the disease and 40 cases have been reported. In all, reports have come from nine counties. [For more information click here](#)



### IDNR Stocks Alligator Gar as Part of Reintroduction Program

IDNR's Division of Fisheries in September stocked 1,600 alligator gar (each 12 to 14 inches in length) into four waters in the state as part of an IDNR Alligator Gar Reintroduction Program. The alligator gar, which were raised from fry at the IDNR Jake Wolf Hatchery in Mason Co. and a cooperating private hatchery operated by Exelon Corporation. [For more information click here](#)

**NEW!** Check out these amazing time-lapse videos of Illinois' [Great State Parks](#)

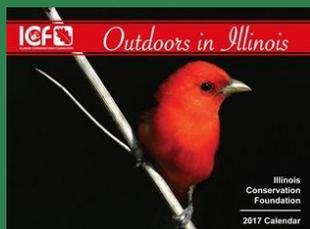


## It's time to order your 2017 ICF Wall Calendar!

The annual calendar contains stunning photography of Illinois; IDNR's hunting and fishing season information and outdoor events throughout the State.

Supplies of the calendar are limited so order your copy today. Priced at \$15, this calendar is the perfect holiday gift for your outdoor friends and family so order a supply and check a number of people off your gift-giving list early this year.

Order [online](#) or mail check to ICF, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702.



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## Highlights



### Fall Trout Fishing Season will open on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 53 ponds, lakes, and streams throughout the state.

The Illinois catchable trout program is funded entirely by those who use the program through the sale of Inland Trout Stamps. The IDNR stocks more than 80,000 rainbow trout each year in bodies of water where trout fishing is permitted during the fall season. No trout may be taken from any of the stocked sites from Oct. 1 until the fall trout season opens at 5 a.m. on Oct.15. [For more information click here](#)



### Illinois State Museum Lockport Gallery Opened September 24

The Gallery's opening coincided with the Lockport Summer Arts Festival. The Gallery presented a new exhibition entitled "Open" that features works of art that express the theme of openness. [For more information click here](#)



### IDNR Announces State and Federal Sites to be Open for Youth Waterfowl Hunting Seasons

A number of Illinois state parks, fish and wildlife areas, conservation areas and recreation areas will be open to youth waterfowl hunting during the 2016 North Zone Youth Waterfowl Hunt, Central Zone Youth Waterfowl Hunt, South Central Zone Youth Waterfowl Hunt and South Zone Youth Waterfowl Hunt. Some Federal sites that fall under the IDNR waterfowl administrative rule will also be open. [For more information click here.](#)

[For more information check out our monthly calendar of events!](#)

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