



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES  
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: November 13, 2007

Memorandum to the Natural Resources Commission

SUBJECT: Special Firearm Deer Hunt for Disabled Hunters  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 Public Act No. 451, as amended, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

Deer hunting in Michigan is a popular sport, and over 734,000 individuals purchased a deer hunting license in 2006. Crowded hunting conditions occur in many public hunting areas during the regular firearm deer season. This adds to the difficulty of the hunt for some disabled persons. Disabled hunters may require assistance to participate in the hunt and to retrieve harvested deer. The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) previously established a special firearm deer hunting season for hunters with certain disabilities on private lands during the third weekend in October. This two-day hunt was established for disabled persons who possess a permit to hunt from a standing vehicle. The hunt provides disabled hunters an opportunity to deer hunt under less crowded conditions and when weather conditions are more likely to be favorable.

In 2006, the NRC expanded the special firearm deer hunt for disabled hunters to include public land where access permits are required, and where firearm deer hunting is conducted through a lottery system. The inclusion of certain public lands allowed the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to facilitate a special hunt on Fort Custer Training Center in 2007.

Public Act No. 60 of 2007 authorized another special hunt on all lands in at least three Michigan counties during the 2007 season for veterans with 100 percent disabilities. This weekend hunt was well received by those participating and additional opportunities have been requested.

Veterans with 100 percent disability and blind persons, as defined by Public Act No. 260 of 1978, should be included in the special firearm deer hunt for disabled hunters. Including veterans and blind hunters in the special firearm deer hunt for disabled hunters provides these

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individuals the opportunity to request assistance from others who are not hunting at the time. It also provides hunting opportunity at a time when the weather is likely to be less challenging and under less crowded conditions than during the regular firearm deer season.

Recommendation:

This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item appeared on the Department's November 26, 2007, calendar. It will be resubmitted for final action in January 2008.

Douglas A. Reeves, Acting Chief  
Wildlife Division

Rodney Stokes, Acting Chief  
Law Enforcement Division

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief  
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management

Ronald A. Olson, Chief  
Parks and Recreation Division

Armindia S. Koch  
Resource Management Deputy

Dennis Fedewa  
Chief Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries  
Director

# **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER**

## **Amendment No. 1 of 2008**

Under the authority of sections 40107 and 40113a, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being sections 324.40107 and 324.40113a of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources ordered that effective January 11, 2008, the following section of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

**3.101 Deer hunting, open seasons; type of deer that may be taken; carrying of firearms; season limit.** Sec. 3.101. (1) The open firearm deer season shall be from November 15 to November 30.

(2) The open muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms only deer season in zone 1 shall be a total of 10 days from the first Friday in December to nine days thereafter. The open muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms only deer season in zone 2 shall be a total of 10 days from the second Friday in December to nine days thereafter. The open muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms only deer season in zone 3 shall be a total of 17 days from the first Friday in December to 16 days thereafter.

(3) Subject to section 43510, subsections (2) and (3), of Part 435, as amended, hunting and fishing licensing, MCL 324.43510, a person hunting deer with a muzzleloading firearm during the muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms only season shall only possess or carry afield, or take a deer with a muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or black-powder pistol, loaded with black-powder or a commercially manufactured black-powder substitute.

(4) The open bow and arrow only season shall be from October 1 through November 14 and from December 1 through January 1.

(5) Subject to section 43510, subsections (2) and (3), of Part 435, as amended, hunting and fishing licensing, MCL 324.43510, during the open bow and arrow only season, a person hunting deer with a bow and arrow shall not possess or carry afield a pistol, revolver, or any other firearm unless the person is properly licensed to hunt deer with a firearm and is hunting in an area open to firearm deer hunting.

(6) The late antlerless firearm deer season shall be from the first Monday following the third Saturday in December through January 1 upon privately owned lands within Alcona, Allegan, Alpena, Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Clinton, Crawford, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Montcalm, Montmorency, Oakland, Oscoda, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, St. Joseph, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Van Buren, and Washtenaw counties. Only a person possessing a valid antlerless deer license issued for the deer management unit in which they are hunting may take a deer during these seasons.

(7) The deer management assistance firearm hunt period shall be from the first Monday following the third Saturday in December through January 1 upon lands owned by federal, state, county, or local units of government, non-profit organizations, and other urban or suburban properties-in zone 3. Only those areas with a wildlife division approved deer population management plan will be considered for issuance of these special deer management assistance permits. Only a person possessing a valid deer management assistance permit issued for this hunt period may take a deer with a firearm during this season.

(8) The season limit shall be 1 deer per firearm deer license, 1 deer per bow and arrow deer license, 1 deer per tag issued with a combination deer license, plus 1 deer per antlerless deer license.

(9) Except as provided by sections 3.101c and 3.101d, the kind of deer which may be taken during the respective open seasons for each combination of season and deer license type shall be as follows:

<b><u>Type of license</u></b>	<b><u>Season in which used</u></b>	<b><u>Kind of deer that may be taken</u></b>
Bow and arrow deer license	Bow and arrow only seasons	Antlerless or antlered deer, except if a person takes 2 antlered deer all seasons combined, one of the antlered deer must have at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length
Firearm deer license	Firearm deer season, muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms only season	Antlered deer, except if a person takes 2 antlered deer all seasons combined, one of the antlered deer must have at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length
	Youth firearm deer hunting days	Antlerless or antlered deer
Combination deer license – Regular	Bow and arrow only seasons	Antlerless or antlered deer
	Firearm deer season or muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms only season	Antlered deer
	Youth firearm deer hunting days	Antlerless or antlered deer
Combination deer license – Restricted	Bow and arrow only seasons	Antlerless deer or a deer which has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length
	Firearm deer season or muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms only season	A deer which has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length
	Youth firearm deer hunting days	Antlerless deer or a deer which has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length

**3.101g Special firearm disabled hunter deer hunting days, season established, participation requirements, limits defined**

(1) The special firearm deer hunt for disabled hunters shall be a 2-day hunt starting the third Saturday in October upon privately owned lands, or public lands requiring an access permit and open to the special firearm deer hunt for disabled hunters by lottery.

(2) Individuals wishing to participate in the special firearm deer hunt for disabled hunters shall be eligible if one of the following applies:

(a) A person is in possession of a permit issued by the department to hunt from a standing vehicle.

(b) A veteran with 100 percent disability as defined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Documentation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs indicating 100 percent disability shall be in the possession of a veteran participating in this hunt.

(c) A blind person, as defined by section 1 of Act No. 260 of the Public Acts of 1978, being section 393.351 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(3) Eligible individuals wishing to participate in the special firearm deer hunt for disabled hunters on public land must apply for a permit through a lottery system in accordance with instructions provided by the land manager.

(4) Except as already provided in section 40114, part 401, wildlife conservation, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being section 324.40114 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, authorizing the taking of a deer of either sex by persons with a permit to hunt from a standing vehicle, all regulations of state law and this order regarding the taking, possession, transportation, and storage of deer during a firearm deer season shall apply to a person participating in this hunt.

Issued this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2008.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Keith J. Charters, Chairman  
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries  
Director