JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: December 8, 2008
RESUBMITTED : January 12, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Taxidermy Regulations
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 1 of 2009
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) poses a serious threat to the health of Michigan's deer, moose, and elk populations, both free-ranging and privately-owned, and to their long-term management. In response to this threat, the Department adopted the *Michigan Surveillance and Response Plan for Chronic Wasting Disease of Free-Ranging and Privately-Owned Cervids* (CWD Plan) on August 26, 2002. Based on available knowledge in 2002, the CWD Plan requires various surveillance and control measures to be implemented when CWD is documented within the state.

On August 25, 2008, the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, confirmed CWD in a deer from a privately-owned facility in Kent County. The confirmation from Ames, Iowa, triggered the implementation of the control measures required in the CWD Plan.

It is now known that the carcasses of CWD-infected deer can serve as a source of infection. Remains from infected carcasses are known to contaminate sites for many years. For this reason, import bans exist for whole carcasses that originate from states with known CWD occurrences. Violations of these restrictions do occur.

Those areas where infected carcasses or carcass parts may be found in quantity, such as taxidermy facilities, may act as foci where infection of live cervids may occur. Taxidermy operations were not noted in the CWD Plan, as they had not yet been identified as a potential source of infection.

A recent case in the state of New York had strong evidence that a CWD-positive animal living in an enclosure was linked to a taxidermy operation. Since there are no biosecurity protocols that can assure the destruction of the CWD agent, it is prudent to take steps to reduce the likelihood of live cervids interacting with potentially infected byproducts of taxidermy operations.

This amendment proposes that taxidermy operations be conducted in a manner that byproducts and waste generated by the facility not be allowed to come into contact with live animals. There are also updates to monitoring and reporting requirements to assure compliance to all conditions of the permit.

Recommendation:

This order was submitted for information on January 8 and February 5, 2009, at the Natural Resources Commission Meeting. This item appeared on the Department's December 29, 2008 calendar and may be eligible for approval on March 5, 2009.

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

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

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Arminda S. Koch
Resource Management 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 2009

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective March 6, 2009, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

5.31 Taxidermy permit, rules.

Sec. 5.31. (1) A taxidermy permit shall be valid for 3 years or through the third June 30th after issue, whichever comes first.

(2) A person issued a taxidermy permit shall keep a record, IN ADDITION TO THE SPECIMEN TAG, of all animals AND ANIMAL PARTS which are received or disposed ~~of, and this record together with all~~ . ALL RECORDS AND plumage and skins in ~~their~~ PERMITTEE'S possession shall be available for inspection by the director, a designee of the director, or conservation officer. ~~This record must include the name of the specimen, the name and address of the person from whom it was received, the state, province, or country where taken, tag or seal number of game or furbearer, the date received ad disposed of, and to whom delivered.~~ RECORDS SHALL BE RETAINED ON THE PREMISES FOR SIX YEARS AND INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

(A) NAME OF SPECIMEN.

(B) NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON FROM WHOM RECEIVED.

(C) NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON OWNING THE SPECIMEN.

(D) COUNTY, STATE, PROVINCE, AND COUNTRY WHERE TAKEN.

(E) TAG OR SEAL NUMBER OF GAME OR PROTECTED ANIMAL.

(F) DATE ANIMAL AND ANIMAL PARTS RECEIVED AND DATE DISPOSED.

(G) NAME TO WHOM PRODUCT IS DELIVERED.

(3) A person issued a taxidermy permit shall only possess game, protected animals, OR ANIMAL PARTS for the purpose of taxidermy at the location described in their taxidermy permit.

(4) FOR DEER, ELK, OR MOOSE, A PERSON ACTING UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A TAXIDERMY PERMIT SHALL:

(A) NOT ALLOW LIVE ANIMALS TO COME INTO CONTACT WITH ANY TAXIDERMY MATERIALS AND ANY WASTE GENERATED FROM TAXIDERMY.

(B) OPERATE WITH BIOSECURITY MEASURES, ACTIONS, OR PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT TRANSMISSION OF DISEASE AND CROSS CONTAMINATION OF LANDS OUTSIDE THE TAXIDERMY WORK AREA WITH WASTE OR ANIMAL PARTS GENERATED FROM TAXIDERMY ACTIVITIES.

(C) PROPERLY DISPOSE OF ANIMAL PARTS FROM A DEER, ELK, OR MOOSE TO PREVENT OTHER ANIMALS FROM COMING INTO CONTACT WITH SUCH PARTS AND SHALL NOT

PROVIDE ANIMAL PARTS FROM A DEER, ELK, OR MOOSE FOR USE AS BAIT FOR THE PURPOSE OF HUNTING OR TRAPPING.

5.110 Special permits; fees; disposition.

Sec. 5.110. The following fees are established for permits issued by the director:

(1) EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2009, a fee of ~~$50.00~~ $100.00 shall be collected for each taxidermy permit issued. Taxidermy specimen identification tags shall be $10 per fifty ~~$6 per one hundred~~.

(2) A fee equivalent to the fee charged for a resident antlerless deer hunting license shall be collected for each managed deer hunting permit and each deer management assistance permit purchased by a permittee.

(3) All moneys received from the sale of permits and licenses as provided in this section shall be turned over to the state treasurer and credited to the game and fish protection fund.

(4) No fee shall be collected for any of the following permits:

(a) Highway killed deer/bear permit.

(b) Deer damage shooting permit.

(c) Damage and nuisance animal control permit, including disease control and disease control replacement permits.

(d) Rehabilitation permit.

(e) Permit to take game with a crossbow.

Issued this 5th day of February, 2009.

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