



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DR. WILLIAM E. MORITZ
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: February 16, 2016
RESUBMITTED: March 21, 2016

A P P R O V E D <hr/> MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION <hr/> (ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION)
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MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons; Managed Wetland Area Regulations
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 2 of 2016

Authority:

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

Discussion and Background:

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) annually prescribes migratory bird hunting season frameworks, or outer limits, for dates and times when hunting may occur and the maximum number of birds that may be taken and possessed. Federal frameworks are negotiated with states via the Flyway Councils. Beginning with the 2016-17 hunting seasons, the USFWS has streamlined the process by which it sets annual migratory bird hunting seasons and daily limits. The 2-year cycle of regulatory practice has been compressed into a single annual process. The new process to set annual migratory bird hunting seasons and bag limits relies on biological data from the previous year to set hunting season dates and project appropriate harvest limits for each game species. This is possible because for many migratory game bird species, the USFWS and the Department have decades of data from population surveys, banding, and harvest surveys that have been used to develop models and harvest strategies to predict population change and inform harvest management decisions. These frameworks have been adjusted to influence harvest regulations based on the previous year's monitoring information and regulatory decisions. This change gives biologists more time to analyze survey data from the USFWS's regulatory decisions and allows more time for public comment. A major benefit is that State agencies are able to set their season dates in the early spring, allowing hunters to plan their schedules well before the first hunting seasons open.

The Department's recommendations for the 2016-17 migratory bird seasons are based on the 2015 State and Federal assessments of waterfowl population status and habitat conditions, and public input including discussion with the Citizen Waterfowl Advisory Committee (CWAC) at their January 9, 2016 meeting.

For the original order and amendment, the Department had included appropriate sections from the Wildlife Conservation Order with proposed recommendations for 2016. However, shortly after the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) meeting on March 10th, the Department received season selection forms for completion from the USFWS and

determined that light geese, white-fronted geese, and Brant bag limits and season dates would need to be adjusted to fit into federal frameworks. These changes are minor as very few of these species are seen and harvested in Michigan. In addition, the Saginaw and Tuscola/Huron Goose Management Units (GMUs) cannot be eliminated under federal frameworks this season. Accordingly, they have been added back into the order with the same season dates as the South Zone. Due to discussion at the March 10th NRC meeting, the Department also recommends changing the expanded decoy restrictions for St. Clair Flats Wildlife Area, Harsens Island Unit and Shiawassee River State Game Area to only restrict “winged” motion rather than any motion of the decoy.

Biological

Since 1991, Michigan has collaborated with other states, the USFWS, and Canadian agencies in conducting aerial surveys of breeding ducks and geese. Spring mallard population estimates from Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin are included in estimates of mid-continent mallard abundance and additionally are needed for establishing annual waterfowl hunting season frameworks for the Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyways. The spring 2015 breeding waterfowl survey was conducted in late April and the 2015 estimate of total ducks was up slightly from 2014 at 431,095. The 2015 estimate for mallards was 237,750, which was similar to 2014. The 2015 statewide wetland abundance estimate was 522,500 ponds which was also similar to the 2014 estimate. The 2015 estimate for Canada geese was up from 2014 at 308,163.

Flyway Councils are advised by flyway technical committees consisting of state and provincial biologists. These technical committees evaluate species and population status, harvest, and hunter-participation data during the development of the Flyway Council recommendations. The USFWS then evaluates the Flyway Councils' recommendations, considering species status and biology, cumulative effects of regulations, and existing regulatory policy. Likewise, the Department's Waterfowl Workgroup and the CWAC review information on species status and habitat conditions when developing recommendations for waterfowl hunting seasons.

Social

The Department develops recommendations based on Waterfowl Workgroup discussions with the CWAC. The CWAC met on January 9 to make recommendations for the 2016-17 waterfowl seasons. The Department's recommendations are the same as those made by the CWAC.

The Department's Waterfowl Workgroup has established goals for duck hunting seasons that include maintaining Michigan's waterfowl hunting heritage by increasing hunter recruitment and retention, balancing regulations simplicity with maximum hunting opportunity, and ensuring that seasons encompass maximum duck numbers and abundant species.

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Biannually, the Department mails Waterfowl Harvest Surveys to a sample of waterfowl hunters to estimate hunting activity and determine opinions and satisfaction with hunting regulations.

Economic

In 2012, waterfowl hunters took about 371,000 waterfowl hunting trips and spent an average of \$463 per hunter annually on waterfowl hunting trips. Collectively, waterfowl hunters spent an estimated \$22.7 million on hunting trips primarily to hunt waterfowl in Michigan (2012 Waterfowl Harvest Report). The economic value of recreational goose hunting in the Mississippi Flyway was estimated at \$185 million in 2006 and the economic costs of goose conflicts was estimated at \$2.2 million in 2000. Businesses located in communities near well-known waterfowl hunting areas receive economic benefits from these waterfowl hunting trips.

Youth Waterfowl Season

The Department is recommending that the season for the federal youth waterfowl season remains the second weekend in September (September 10 and 11, 2016). These dates will provide maximum opportunity for youth hunters.

Experimental Early Teal Season

The Department is recommending that regulations remain the same as 2015:

- September 1-7 statewide
- Daily bag limit of 6 teal and a possession limit of 18 which is three times the daily limit
- Hunting hours begin at sunrise

Due to USFWS requirements, the experimental early teal season will continue to be evaluated by each state participating in the experiment for three years to measure take on non-target species. This 2016 season will be the third year of the 3-year experiment.

The Department and the CWAC are recommending opening the experimental early teal season as early as possible due to the greatest abundance of teal in Michigan during that time. Blue-winged teal are some of the earliest duck species to migrate each fall. Information that is available on teal migration in Michigan indicates that the peak of fall blue-winged teal migration is late August – early September. Recommended season dates include days with highest abundance of blue-winged teal, increases field days for hunters by incorporating Labor Day weekend, and doesn't overlap with the youth waterfowl season. By not having concurrent seasons with the youth season, there is less complexity for law enforcement.

An estimated 8,784, or approximately 18% of waterfowl hunters in 2014, pursued teal during the early teal season in 2014 (2014 Waterfowl Harvest Survey, in draft).

In order to improve waterfowl identification, the Department recommends no change to hunting hours (i.e., early teal season begin at sunrise rather than the usual half hour before sunrise for migratory bird hunting hours). The success of the experimental season will depend on a low rate of harvest attempts of non-target species, so the ability of hunters to correctly identify teal is essential. Identifying duck species is difficult under low light conditions. The Canada goose season dates overlap the proposed teal season and goose hunting hours begin one half hour before sunrise. The Wildlife Division and Law Enforcement Division will continue to work together to mitigate hunter confusion through public education and communication with hunters while in the field, while providing maximum recreational opportunity.

The Department will continue to implement the following additional steps to ensure a successful experimental teal season:

- Educating waterfowl hunters on the identification of teal
- Providing information to hunters to help guide them to hunting locations where they are more likely to encounter teal (e.g., coastal wetlands vs. forested wetlands where they are likely to harvest wood ducks)
- Informing hunters regarding the purpose of the experimental season and criteria for evaluated

Duck Seasons

The USFWS offered a 60-day season and six-duck daily limit based on an adaptive harvest management strategy using 2015 prairie pond numbers and mid-continent mallard abundance as a guide to season length and daily duck limit. The Department developed the following duck season dates for 2016 based on feedback from CWAC, analysis of data on hunter opinions, migration timing, and hunter success.

The recommended dates for the 2016 duck season are:

- North Zone – September 24 to November 20 and November 26 to November 27
- Middle Zone – October 1 to November 27 and December 17 to December 18
- South Zone – October 8 to December 4 and December 31 to January 1, 2017

The daily bag limit for ducks will be six ducks with the following species-specific restrictions: four mallards (no more than two hens), one black duck, two northern pintail, three wood ducks, two redhead ducks, three scaup, and two canvasbacks. In addition to the duck limit, hunters may take five mergansers, only two of which may be a hooded merganser. The possession limit is three times the daily limit for ducks, coots, and mergansers.

Goose Seasons

The Department is recommending goose season dates based on Canada goose population goals, feedback from the CWAC, and surveys of waterfowl hunters. Waterfowl hunters have expressed

their desire for additional opportunities to hunt ducks and geese on the same days. The season dates that are recommended provide for overlap of goose and duck seasons.

Federal frameworks for the Mississippi Flyway allow for a 107-day Canada goose season with a daily bag limit of five from September 1-30 and three from October 1-February 15, 2017. The possession limit is three times the daily limit for geese.

There are four Goose Management Units (GMUs) in the state that have traditionally had frameworks and season dates that differ from the remainder of the state. **The Department is recommending identical goose season dates as the South Zone for the Saginaw and Tuscola/Huron GMUs because federal frameworks are now the same. Allegan and Muskegon County Waste Water GMUs have different proposed goose season dates because the timing of peak Canada goose abundance differs from the South Zone.** Having different season dates will provide more opportunity for Michigan goose hunters.

While few other goose species are harvested in Michigan, the Department makes recommendations that allow goose hunters to take these species if they have the opportunity. **The recommended dates for the season for white, blue, and Ross' geese, white-fronted geese, and Brant are similar to the Canada goose seasons in each respective zone and GMU. The daily bag limit for white, blue, and Ross' geese is 20, and 1 for white-fronted and Brant.** Possession limits will be three times the daily limit. **The Department has strived to overlap these other goose seasons with Canada goose seasons as much as federal frameworks allow.**

The 2015 Michigan Canada goose population estimate was above the goal range of 175,000-225,000. Federal frameworks for Canada geese in the Mississippi Flyway have been liberalized to allow for 107 days of hunting, the maximum allowed under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and an increase in bag limits. The recommended season dates and bag limits take advantage of this liberalization. September dates of the Canada goose season are timed so that resident geese are most susceptible to harvest. This is a good tool to maintain Michigan's Canada goose population at or near the goal range which will help address human-geese conflicts.

The Department recommends the following dates and daily bag limits for Canada goose seasons:

- North Zone regular season: September 1-30 (5-bird daily bag limit) and October 1-December 16 (3-bird daily bag limit)
- Middle Zone: September 1-30 (5-bird daily bag limit), October 1- December 14 (3-bird daily bag limit, and December 17-18 (3-bird daily bag limit)
- South Zone, **Saginaw County GMU, and Tuscola/Huron GMU**: September 1-25 (5-bird daily bag limit), October 8- December 4 (3-bird daily bag limit), December 31-

January 1, 2017 (3-bird daily bag limit), and January 21- February 11, 2017 (3-bird daily bag limit)

- Allegan GMU: September 1-7 (5-bird daily bag limit), November 5- **December 23 (3-bird daily bag limit), and December 26-** February 12, 2017 (3-bird daily bag limit)
- Muskegon County Waste Water GMU: October 15- November 12 (3-bird daily bag limit) and December 3-20 (3-bird daily bag limit)

Falconry

For the falconry season, the recommended dates for the additional days outside the gun hunting seasons for ducks, mergansers, coots, and moorhens are January 2 to January 26, 2017 and March 1 to 10, 2017. The daily and possession limits remain unchanged.

Managed Waterfowl and Wetland Areas

Managed waterfowl and wetland areas serve several important functions. They provide high-quality and secure habitats for migrating waterfowl and other wetland species, as well as excellent recreational hunting opportunities. Although waterfowl hunting is generally the primary focus in these areas, hunting other species is also encouraged where conflicts do not arise with waterfowl habitat or hunting. Each area is unique based on the local habitat, species utilizing the area, ownership acreage, and social traditions. Where possible, the Department attempts to have consistent regulations between these areas, while still acknowledging local public desires.

Youth Waterfowl Hunters at Allegan State Game Area, Fennville Farm Unit

Under PA 109 and PA 120 of 2011, the Natural Resources Commission is charged with establishing a mentored youth program. The legislation allows youths under the age of 10 to participate in hunting provided that they are accompanied by an eligible mentor, possess the mentored youth hunting license, and hunt in within regulations provided under the mentored youth program.

The Department recommends making a technical change to allow mentored youth hunters to be included in the reserved waterfowl designated “youth day” daily drawing for Allegan State Game Area, Fennville Farm Unit. This change will lower the eligible age of youth hunters to participate in the “youth day” daily drawing,

Biological

Hunting during the reserved waterfowl designated youth day is administered through a daily drawing. As this process will not change, participation will continue to be limited, so no biological impact is expected.

Social

The Department promotes passing along Michigan’s rich hunting heritage to future generations. By expanding the age minimum to 16 years of age, additional new hunters may be able to participate in the reserved waterfowl designated youth day.

Economic

Allowing additional youth hunters to qualify for the reserved waterfowl designated youth day may increase participation. However, as this is a limited hunt taking place in one hunting area, no significant economic impact is expected.

Shotshell Limit at Allegan State Game Area, Fennville Farm Unit, Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Muskegon County Wastewater System, and St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area, Harsens Island Unit

Shotshell limits on the managed waterfowl areas are put in place to provide a quality hunting experience for the majority of hunters. The Department recommends a shotshell limit of 25 for Allegan State Game Area, Fennville Farm Unit, Muskegon County Wastewater System, Pointe Mouillee State Game Area and St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area, Harsens Island Unit. This will make a consistent shotshell limit of 25 across the Southeast and Southwest Regions; Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area, Fish Point State Wildlife Area and Shiawassee River State Game Area already have a shell limit of 25. The current shotshell size limitation will stay in effect.

Biological

There is no biological impact expected.

Social

Making the allowable shot size consistent across this region managed waterfowl areas provide a quality hunting experience for the majority of hunters.

Economic

No economic impact is expected.

Firearm Antlerless Deer Hunting at St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area, Harsens Island Unit

The Department proposes to open St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area, Harsens Island Unit to firearm antlerless deer hunting under a permit from the first Monday following the third Saturday in December through January 1, 2017. To further reduce deer numbers on these areas, it is also proposed to allow deer hunting by permit within refuge areas during dates approved by the Wildlife Regional Supervisor. Refuge areas will only be opened as needed. The Department plans on communicating these changes to the public by advertising it at the waterfowl check stations, sending e-mails to the conservation groups that are in each area, posting signs up, putting messages on the answering machines and allow up to 5 business days of notification before the hunt occurs.

Fish Point State Wildlife Area and Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area currently have similar regulations in place and this proposed change will provide consistency across the Southeast Region.

Biological

Deer numbers have been increasing in these managed areas in recent years including deer damage to crops planted to attract waterfowl and hide waterfowl hunters. Currently, archery and muzzleloader hunting opportunities have not been effective at reducing deer numbers.

Social

The timing of a late December firearm antlerless deer hunt will not interfere with waterfowl hunting or cause disturbance to waterfowl on these areas.

Economic

No economic impact is expected.

Absentee Hunters at Fish Point Wildlife Area, Nayanquing Point Wildlife Area, Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Shiawassee River State Game Area and St. Clair Flats Wildlife Area, Harsens Island Unit

The Department recommends an administrative change to allow up to two absentee hunters not present for the waterfowl drawing to join a party of two or three if the hunter(s) have completed the registration card and it is filed in the check station at the time of the drawing and the maximum party size is not exceeded. To register absentee hunters, the individuals complete waterfowl hunting license including the Federal Duck Stamp or a copy of it is required. The Department does not expect any biological, social, or economic impacts.

Prohibited Use of **Motion-Winged Decoys** on Shiawassee River State Game Area and St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area, Harsens Island Unit

Beginning with the 2010 waterfowl hunting season, the Shiawassee Flats Citizens and Hunters Association (SFCHA) presented a proposal to the Department to ban the use of spinning-winged decoys (SWDs) on managed waterfowl areas. Their concern was that SWDs negatively impact the waterfowl hunting experience as many hunters do not understand that using SWDs can scare birds from entire hunting fields. The proposal to restrict the use of SWDs on the Shiawassee River State Game Area (SGA) was presented to the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and the ban was adopted, along with a three-year evaluation of the SWD restriction. The Department conducted the evaluation after three hunting seasons and concluded that the ban did not result in any negative impacts on hunter participation or satisfaction.

Beginning with the 2013-2014 waterfowl hunting season, the Harsens Island Waterfowl Hunters Association (HIWHA) requested that the Department conduct a similar ban of SWDs for the St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area (SCFSWA), Harsens Island Unit for three years (sunset date of August 2017). This request was also supported by Waterfowl USA's St. Clair Flats No.1 Chapter and the St. Clair Flats Waterfowlers Association. Therefore, the NRC adopted a ban on SWDs for the SCFSWA-Harsens Island Unit to address concerns by hunters that SWDs reduce the quality of their hunting experience at Harsens Island. The Department conducted the evaluation after three hunting seasons and will be presenting a report at the April 14, 2016 NRC meeting.

Since these bans were put into place, a variety of other motion-winged decoys continue to become available on the market for hunters to use to attract waterfowl. Some of these decoys are not specifically "spinning-winged" but are, for example "bi-axial", "wing-tipped", or "vortex" decoys. In order to preserve the intent of the bans enacted at the Shiawassee River SGA and the

SCFSWA Harsens Island Unit, **the Department recommends prohibiting motion-winged decoys.**

As this recommendation is a technical change, the biological, social, and economic issues regarding motion-winged decoys identified in Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 11 of 2010 and Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 15 of 2013 remain unchanged.

Canada Goose and Teal Season Date Exceptions at State Park and Recreation Areas

With the elimination of the Early Canada Goose Season, the Wildlife Division worked with the Parks and Recreation Division to update the dates that hunters may hunt Canada goose and teal at State Park and Recreation Areas. In general, most Parks and Recreation Areas are keeping the existing expectations and closures during what is currently known as the early goose season. However, some Park and Recreation areas eliminated some or all their special closures or timeframes to allow more goose hunting during the early September timeframe. All Park and Recreation Areas will now allow areas that are open to goose hunting be open to teal hunting during the same timeframes. This will allow for consistency between the two seasons.

There were also many administrative changes made throughout the order for consistency and clarification.

Recommendation:

This order was submitted for information on March 10, 2016, at the Natural Resources Commission Meeting. This item appeared on the Department's February calendar and may be eligible for approval on April 14, 2016.



Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division



Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



Deb Begalle, Acting Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



Bill O'Neill
Natural Resources Deputy

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

William E. Moritz, Ph.D., Director

Date

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 2 of 2016

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 April 15, 2016, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

3.412 Repealed. Am. 2, 2016, Eff. April 15, 2016.

Publishers note: The repealed section pertained to the Early September Canada goose season; dates and closures, exceptions.

3.413 Repealed. Am. 2, 2016, Eff. April 15, 2016.

Publishers note: The repealed section pertained to the Early September Canada goose season, daily limit, possession limit.

3.415 Migratory birds open seasons, possession limit defined, exceptions.

Sec. 3.415. The migratory bird possession limit shall be three times the daily limit. The migratory bird hunting open seasons and exceptions are as shown in table 10:

TABLE 10

Migratory Bird Open Seasons

Season and Species	Zone or Management Unit	Open Season
Ducks (regular season)	North Zone	September 24 to November 20 and November 26 to November 27
	Middle Zone	October 1 to November 27 and December 17 to December 18
	South Zone	October 8 to December 4 and December 31 to January 1, 2017
Merganser		Same dates as ducks in the respective zones
Coots		Same dates as ducks in the respective zones
Common Moorhens (Gallinules)	Statewide	September 1 to November 9
Canada Goose	North Zone	September 1 to December 16
	Middle Zone	September 1 to December 14 and December 17 to December 18
	South Zone, excluding GMUs listed below in the table	September 1 to September 25, October 8 to December 4, December 31 to January 1 and January 21 to February 11, 2017
	Tuscola/Huron GMU	September 1 to September 25, October 8 to December 4, December 31 to January 1 and January 21 to February 11, 2017
	Saginaw County GMU	September 1 to September 25, October 8 to December 4, December 31 to January 1 and January 21 to February 11, 2017
	Allegan County GMU	September 1 to September 7,

		November 5 to December 23, and December 26 to February 12, 2017
	Muskegon County W.W. GMU	October 15 to November 12 and December 3 to December 20
Snow, Ross', and White-fronted Geese, and Brant	North Zone	September 1 to December 16
	Middle Zone	September 1 to December 14 and December 17 to December 18
	South Zone, excluding GMUs listed below in the table	September 1 to September 25, October 8 to December 4, December 31 to January 1, 2017
	Tuscola/Huron GMU	September 1 to September 25, October 8 to December 4, December 31 to January 1, 2017
	Saginaw County GMU	September 1 to September 25, October 8 to December 4, December 31 to January 1, 2017
	Allegan County GMU	September 1 to September 7, November 5 to December 23, and December 26 to February 12, 2017
	Muskegon W.W. GMU	October 15 to November 12 and December 3 to December 20

3.415a Youth waterfowl hunting weekend, season established, limits defined, adult requirements, hunting hours; exceptions.

Sec. 3.415a The youth waterfowl hunting weekend shall be 2 consecutive days starting the second Saturday in September and within the guidelines approved by the United States fish and wildlife service. Except for persons taking Canada goose during the September segment of the Canada goose season in each zone, the following rules shall apply to a person taking ducks, mergansers, Canada goose, coot, or common moorhen (gallinule) on the youth waterfowl hunting weekend:

(1) Youth 16 years of age and under may take duck, merganser, Canada goose, coot, or common moorhen (gallinule) provided the youth is licensed to take waterfowl as required by part 435, hunting and fishing licensing, of the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451. The daily and possession limit for each species shall be as provided in section 3.416.

(2) A parent or legal guardian shall not allow a youth hunter 10 through 16 years of age to go afield to hunt duck, merganser, Canada goose, coot, or moorhen unless the youth hunter is accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age or older, regardless of property ownership. A youth less than 10 years of age must be accompanied by an adult at least 21 years of age or older and meet the requirements of the mentored youth hunting program. An adult accompanying a youth waterfowl hunter may take other game for which the season is open while the youth is exercising the privileges of the youth waterfowl hunting weekend.

(3) The hunting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, local time.

(4) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, all regulations of state law and this order regarding the taking, possession, transportation, and storage of waterfowl, shall apply on youth waterfowl hunting weekend.

3.415b Canada goose season, date exceptions.

Sec. 3.415b The first segment of the Canada goose season shall be as described in section 3.415, Table 10, except as follows:

(1) State game areas. Within the posted boundaries of the following state game areas (SGA), the season shall be closed:

(b) The Highbanks, Fennville farm, and Bravo units of the Allegan SGA as described in section 13.11 shall be closed September 1 through September 7.

(2) Muskegon county wastewater system management unit. The Muskegon county waste water system management unit, as posted, shall be closed.

3.416 Migratory game birds; daily limit.

Sec. 3.416. The daily limit of migratory game birds for the seasons specified in section 3.415 shall be as follows:

(1) **Ducks, daily limit.** The daily limit shall be 6 ducks of which no more than 4 may be mallards, no more than 2 may be a hen mallard, no more than 1 may be a black duck, no more than 3 may be wood ducks, no more than 2 may be pintails, no more than 2 may be redheads, no more than 3 may be scaup, and no more than 2 may be canvasbacks.

(2) **Merganser, daily limit.** The merganser daily limit shall be 5 mergansers of which no more than 2 may be a hooded merganser.

(3) **Canada goose, north, middle, and south zones, including GMUs, daily limit.** During September, in the north, middle, and south zones as described in section 1.2 of this order and all GMUs as described in sections 12.701, 12.702, 12.703, and 12.705 the daily limit shall be 5 Canada geese. For season dates after September 30, as described in section 3.415, the daily limit shall be 3 Canada geese.

(4) **Other geese, daily limit.** The daily limit on light geese (snow, blue, and Ross) shall be 20. The daily limit on Brant and white-fronted geese shall be 1.

(5) **Coot, daily limit.** The daily limit of coot shall be 15.

(6) **Common moorhen (gallinule), daily limit.** The daily limit of moorhen shall be 1.

3.422 Migratory birds, falconry, open seasons; daily limit, possession limit.

Sec. 3.422. (1) The open season for taking common snipe (jacksnipe), woodcock, and Virginia and Sora rails by falconry shall be the same dates as the firearm seasons in the respective zones for these species as described in sections 3.415 and 3.420.

(2) The open season for taking geese shall be the same dates as the firearm seasons in the respective zones and goose management units.

(3) The open season for taking duck, merganser, coot and common moorhen (gallinule) shall be the same dates as the firearm seasons in the respective zones for these species, plus the season shall be open statewide January 2 to January 21, 2017 and March 1 through March 10, 2017.

(4) The daily limit for migratory game birds taken by falconry shall be 3 birds combined, and the possession limit shall be 9 birds combined.

7.1 Hunting or trapping in state parks or game refuges; designating where permissible; permits; hunting or trapping in state recreation areas.

Sec. 7.1 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter or by permit issued by the director, no person shall trap or hunt with firearms or dogs or in any other manner in any state park, state game refuge, or other lands under the control of and dedicated by the department as a game refuge or wildlife sanctuary.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, state recreation areas shall be open to hunting and trapping during established seasons.

(3) Trapping in state recreation areas, except as otherwise provided in this chapter, shall be limited to those areas at least 50 feet outside of the mowed portions of developed picnic areas, swimming beaches, parking lots, boat launches, children's playground structures, campgrounds or headquarters' areas. A duffer-type, egg-type, or similarly designed foothold trap for raccoon may be used within the exempted area only by written permission by the designated department representative.

7.2 Repealed. Am. 2, 2016, Eff. April 15, 2016.

Publishers note: The repealed section pertained to Brimley state park, hunting and trapping allowed.

7.4 Fayette state park, hunting and trapping allowed; exception.

Sec. 7.4 Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons in sections 33 and 34, T39N R19W, and sections 3 and 4, T38N R19W within Fayette state park; except the entire park shall be closed to the taking of waterfowl from September 1 to Labor day.

7.5 Indian lake state park, hunting and trapping allowed; exception.

Sec. 7.5 Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on those lands in the south shore unit lying south of county road P-442 in the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4, the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4, and the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of section 17, and in all state-owned lands in the west shore unit in the S 1/2 of section 6 and the N 1/2 of section 7, T41N R16W, within Indian lake state park; except the entire park shall be closed to the taking of waterfowl from September 1 to Labor day.

7.7 McLain state park, hunting and trapping allowed; exception.

Sec. 7.7 Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on all state-owned lands lying south and east of M-203 in sections 21, 22 and 23, T56N R34W, within McLain state park; except the entire state park shall be closed to the taking of waterfowl from September 1 to Labor day.

7.9 Porcupine mountains wilderness state park, hunting and trapping allowed; exceptions.

Sec. 7.9 Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on all state-owned lands within the boundaries of Porcupine mountains wilderness state park except for section 19 and the N 1/4 of section 30, T50N R45W, Gogebic county (Presque Isle scenic site section), and the S 1/2 of the NW 1/4 and the N 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of section 21, T51N R43W, Ontonagon county (lake of the clouds escarpment scenic site section), and section 9 and the N 1/2 of section 1, T51N R42W, Ontonagon county (Union bay campground and headquarters area); also except the entire park shall be closed to the taking of waterfowl from September 1 to Labor day.

7.10 Tahquamenon falls state park, hunting and trapping allowed; exceptions.

Sec. 7.10 Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on all state-owned lands within the boundaries of Tahquamenon falls state park except for the following lands:

(1) The lower falls scenic site being the S 1/2 of the SE 1/4 south of highway M-123 and the E 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 south of state highway M-123, section 29; the NE 1/4 of section 33 lying north of the Tahquamenon river including the island; and the E 1/2 of the E 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of section 32 lying north of the Tahquamenon river, and the W 1/2 of the W 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of section 33, T49N R7W.

(2) The headquarters area being the S 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 and the N 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of section 31, T49N R7W.

(3) The upper falls scenic site being the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 lying south of state highway M-123 and the E 1/2 of the SW 1/4 lying south of state highway M-123 in section 1, and the NW 1/4 except for the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of section 12, T48N R8W.

(4) The entire park shall be closed to the taking of waterfowl from September 1 to Labor day.

7.15 Cheboygan state park, hunting and trapping allowed, exceptions.

Sec. 7.15 Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on all state-owned lands within the dedicated boundary of Cheboygan state park in sections 22, 23, 26, 27, 34 and 35, T38N R1W, except for state-owned lands in the W 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of section 26, and state-owned lands in the E 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of section

27, T38N R01W; also except the entire park shall be closed to the taking of waterfowl from September 1 to Labor day.

7.16 Fisherman's Island state park, hunting and trapping allowed, exception.

Sec. 7.16 Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on all state-owned lands within the dedicated boundary of Fisherman's Island state park in sections 29, 31 and 32, T34N R08W, and sections 6 and 7, T33N R08W, and sections 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23 and 26, T33N R09W; except the entire park shall be closed to the taking of waterfowl from September 1 to Labor day.

7.18 Hoeft state park, hunting and trapping allowed; exceptions.

Sec. 7.18 Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on all state-owned lands lying within the dedicated boundary of Hoeft state park except that land lying north and east of state highway US-23 in section 31, T36N R5E; also except the entire park shall be closed to the taking of waterfowl from September 1 to Labor day.

7.19 Leelanau state park, hunting and trapping allowed, exceptions.

Sec. 7.19 Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on all state-owned lands within the dedicated boundary of Leelanau state park in sections 6, 7 and 18, T32N R10W, and in sections 12, 13 and 24, T32N R11W, except r all state-owned lands in section 6, T32N R10W; also except the entire state park shall be closed to the taking of waterfowl from September 1 to Labor day.

7.20 Ludington state park, hunting and trapping allowed, exceptions.

Sec. 7.20 Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during established seasons on all state-owned lands within the dedicated boundary of Ludington state park except in the following described area: sections 17, 18, 19, and 20 in T19N R18W, Hamlin township, boundaries as posted; also except the entire park shall be closed to the taking of waterfowl from September 1 to Labor day.

7.24 Silver Lake state park, hunting and trapping allowed; exception.

Sec. 7.24 Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on all state-owned lands within the dedicated park boundary in sections 17 to 20 and 29 to 32, T15N R18W, and sections 24, 25 and 36, T15N R19W, and section 6, T14N R18W, and section 1, T14N R19W, except for all state-owned lands in the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of section 29, T15N R18W; except for the following:

- (1) All state-owned lands in the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of section 29, T15N R18W shall be closed.
- (2) The entire state park shall be closed to the taking of waterfowl from September 1 to Labor day.
- (3) The off-road vehicle area, Silver lake beach and modern camping area, park residences, lighthouse area, and headquarters area, as posted, shall be closed to the taking of waterfowl from the day after Labor day to September 15.

7.27 Wilderness state park, hunting and trapping allowed, exceptions.

Sec. 7.27 Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on all state-owned lands in the dedicated boundary of wilderness state park in sections 20 to 24, T39N R6W, sections 19 to 21, 23 to 30, and 32 to 36, T39N R5W, and sections 4, 5, 7, 8, 13, 17, and 18, T38N R5W; except the entire park shall be closed to the taking of waterfowl from September 1 to Labor day.

7.29 Repealed. Am. 2, 2016, Eff. April 15, 2016.

Publishers note: The repealed section pertained to Cambridge state park, hunting and trapping allowed.

7.32 Seven lakes state park, hunting and trapping allowed, exception.

Sec. 7.32 Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on all state-owned lands in sections 19, 20, 29 and 30, T5N R7E, within Seven lakes state park; except there shall be no taking of waterfowl from three days before Labor day through labor day within 450 feet of any boat launch, campground, beach, parking area, or picnic area.

7.34 Sleepy Hollow state park, hunting and trapping allowed, exception.

Sec. 7.34 Hunting and trapping shall be allowed during the established seasons on all those state-owned lands in the dedicated boundary in sections 34 and 35, T7N R1W, and in sections 2, 3, 9, 10, and 11, T6N R1W, within Sleepy Hollow state park; except there shall be no taking of waterfowl after 8:00 a.m. from September 1 to Labor day in that area north of Price road.

7.35 Sterling state park, trapping and waterfowl hunting allowed; exceptions.

Sec. 7.35 (1) Trapping shall be allowed during the established trapping seasons on all state-owned lands in the dedicated boundary except within the developed areas of land known as the Bartnick boat launch, the park headquarters, the beach and picnic areas, and campground of Sterling state park.

(2) Waterfowl hunting shall be allowed from the day after Labor day to September 15 and in January and February during established seasons south and west of the park entrance road, except there shall be no taking of any animals after 10:00 a.m. and shooting from the east shore of the lagoons shall be in a westerly direction only.

(3) Waterfowl hunting shall be allowed from the day after Labor day through the end of February during the established seasons on all state-owned lands in the dedicated park boundary in the southernmost 300 acres, known as the Union camp marsh, bordered by Elm street on the south, interstate highway I-75 on the west, the south shore of the Clearwater drain on the north and the Ford River Raisin Warehouse property on the east. In addition, the area east of Waterworks road, west of the Army Corps of Engineers confined disposal facility fence extending out half-way into the water channel and south of Sandy creek and north of the park entrance road, also known as the old campground (restored lake plain prairie area) and Sterling harbor basin; except within developed areas of land known as the Bartnick boat launch.

7.52 Waterloo recreation area; area closed to hunting, unlawful acts; posting required.

Sec. 7.52 (1) It shall be unlawful to take any animal within the Waterloo recreation area on the state-owned lands in section 3; all lands in section 4 lying south of Bush road and McClure road; all lands in section 5 south of McClure road and east of Lowery road; all lands in sections 8 and 9 and the W 1/2 of the W 1/2 of section 10 with the exception of waterfowl hunting during the regular waterfowl season on Cedar lake, all in T2S R3E, Sylvan township, commonly known as the Mill-Cedar lake area; that part of the NE 1/4 of section 33, west of Cassidy lake road and that part of the E 1/2 of the W 1/2 of section 33, north of Waterloo road; that part of the SE 1/4 of section 33, east and north of the outlet stream from Cassidy lake; that part of the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of section 34, west of Cassidy lake road, T1S R3E, Lyndon township, commonly known as the Cassidy lake area, Washtenaw county; all lands in section 2 and the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of section 11, lying north of Seymour road, T2S R1E, Leoni township, Jackson county; all lands in section 31, T1S R2E, and section 6, T2S R2E, Waterloo township, Jackson county, bounded on the south by Seymour road, on the east by Portage creek and Big Portage lake, on the north by Big Portage lake, and on the west by a line described as commencing at the intersection of Seymour road and the entrance road to Big Portage lake public use area in the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4, section 6, then northerly along said entrance road to the approximate center of the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of section 6; westerly along old campground road to the turn near the west line of the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of section 6, northerly along old road meandering through middle of the NW 1/4 to the north line of section 6, northeasterly along old road and a projection of same to the border of Big Portage lake in the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of section 31, T1S R2E.

(2) A person shall not take any waterfowl from September 1 to September 15 within 450 feet of any boat launch, campground, beach, parking area, or picnic area in the high use areas at Green, Sugarloaf, and Crooked lakes.

(3) Signs containing the hunting closure shall be posted in such a manner and at such locations as will provide reasonable notice of the closure to the public.

7.56 Rifle river recreation area, hunting prohibited, exceptions; posting required.

Sec. 7.56 (1) A person shall not take an animal from those portions of the Rifle river recreation area described as follows:

(a) All state-owned lands of section 1, T23N R03E, Ogemaw county, except the SW 1/4 lying south of the north shoreline of Grousehaven lake, and the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4, and the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4, and the South 1200 feet of the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 lying north and east of Grousehaven lake.

(b) All state-owned lands of the E 1/2 of the E 1/2 of section 2 lying east of Gamble creek and north and west of Grousehaven lake, T23N R03E, Ogemaw county.

(2) A person shall not take any waterfowl from Rifle river recreation area from September 1 to Labor day.

(3) Signs containing the hunting closure shall be posted in such a manner and at such locations as will provide reasonable notice of the closure to the public.

7.60 Fort Custer recreation area, unlawful acts, exceptions; posting required.

Sec. 7.60 A person shall not do any of the following:

(1) Take an animal with a firearm from November 15 to December 1 or hunt or take Canada geese during September 1 to 15 on those portions of the Fort Custer recreation area described as follows:

(a) All lands in section 3, T2S R9W, lying southeasterly of the park entrance road; and all that part of section 2, T2S R9W, lying north and west of the old military road intersection with the Eagle lake day use area entrance road, and all lands in section 3, T2S R9W, north of the day use area entrance road to the intersection of the main park entrance road.

(2) A person shall not take an animal within the limits of the area commonly referred to as the Fort Custer campground and posted as closed to shooting.

(3) A person shall not take waterfowl from any state-owned lands or waters in the Fort Custer recreation area from September 1 to Labor day.

(4) Signs containing the regulations listed in this section shall be posted in such a manner and at such locations as will provide reasonable notice of the closure to the public.

7.63 Brighton recreation area, unlawful acts, exceptions; posting required.

Sec. 7.63 (1) A person shall not take any waterfowl from September 1 to September 15 within 450 feet of any campsite.

(2) Signs containing the hunting closure shall be posted in such a manner and at such locations as will provide reasonable notice of the closure to the public.

7.64 Holly recreation area, unlawful acts, exceptions; posting required.

Sec. 7.64 (1) A person shall not take any waterfowl from September 1 to Labor day on all those state owned lands bounded on the north and west by Grange hall road, on the east by Wildwood road, and on the south and west by Dixie highway.

(2) Signs containing the hunting closure shall be posted in such a manner and at such locations as will provide reasonable notice of the closure to the public.

7.65 Ionia recreation area, unlawful acts, exceptions; posting required.

Sec. 7.65 (1) A person shall not take any waterfowl from September 1 to Labor day within 450 feet of any campsite, picnic area, beach, parking area, or boat launch.

(2) A person shall not take any waterfowl from the day after Labor day to September 15 after 8:00 a.m. within 450 feet of any campsite, picnic area, beach, parking area, or boat launch.

(3) Signs containing the hunting closure shall be posted in such a manner and at such locations as will provide reasonable notice of the closure to the public.

7.66 Island lake recreation area, unlawful acts, exceptions; posting required.

Sec. 7.66 (1) A person shall not take any waterfowl from September 1 to Labor day.

(2) A person shall not take any waterfowl from September 1 to September 15 on those state-owned lands and waters north of the CSX railroad tracks in sections 4 and 5 and the W 1/3 of the NW 1/4 of section 3, T1N R6E.

(3) Signs containing the hunting closure shall be posted in such a manner and at such locations as will provide reasonable notice of the closure to the public.

7.67 Lake Hudson recreation area, unlawful acts, exceptions; posting required.

Sec. 7.67 (1) A person shall not take any waterfowl from September 1 to September 15 within 450 feet of any campsite, boat launch, beach, or picnic area.

(2) Signs containing the hunting closure shall be posted in such a manner and at such locations as will provide reasonable notice of the closure to the public.

7.68 Metamora-Hadley recreation area, unlawful acts, exceptions; posting required.

Sec. 7.68 (1) A person shall not take any waterfowl from September 1 to Labor day from Metamora-Hadley recreation area.

(2) A person shall not take any waterfowl from the day after Labor day to September 15 within 450 feet of any campsite, boat launch, parking area, picnic area, or beach.

(3) Signs containing the hunting closure shall be posted in such a manner and at such locations as will provide reasonable notice of the closure to the public.

7.69 Ortonville recreation area, unlawful acts, exceptions; posting required.

Sec. 7.69 (1) A person shall not take any waterfowl from Big fish lake from September 1 to Labor day.

(2) A person shall not take any waterfowl from September 1 to September 15 within 450 feet of any campsite, boat launch, parking area, picnic area, or beach.

(3) Signs containing the hunting closure shall be posted in such a manner and at such locations as will provide reasonable notice of the closure to the public.

7.70 Pinckney recreation area, unlawful acts, exceptions; posting required.

Sec. 7.70 (1) A person shall not take any waterfowl from September 1 to Labor day within 450 feet of any state-owned boat launch, campsite, beach, parking area, or picnic area at Bruin, Half moon, and Silver lakes.

(2) Signs containing the hunting closure shall be posted in such a manner and at such locations as will provide reasonable notice of the closure to the public.

7.71 Pontiac lake recreation area, unlawful acts, exceptions; posting required.

Sec. 7.71 (1) A person shall not take any waterfowl after 8:00 a.m. from September 1 to Labor day on all those state-owned lands in section 18, T3N R9E.

(2) A person shall not take any waterfowl from September 1 to September 15 on those state-owned lands in sections 12 and 13, T3N R8E, south of Gale road; or on those state-owned lands in that area bounded on the north by the park entrance road, on the north and east by Cross road and Maceday lake road, on the south by Gale road, and on the west by the north-south mid- section line of section 11, T3N R8E.

(3) Signs containing the hunting closure shall be posted in such a manner and at such locations as will provide reasonable notice of the closure to the public.

13.3 Fish Point wildlife area; Nayanquing Point wildlife area; Pointe Mouillee state game area; Shiawassee river state game area; St. Clair flats wildlife area (Harsens island unit); additional rules.

Sec. 13.3 On those portions of the Fish point wildlife area, Nayanquing point wildlife area, Pointe Mouillee state game area, Shiawassee river state game area, and St. Clair flats wildlife area (Harsens island unit) posted "state game area hunting by permit only," a permit is required to take any animal and the following rules shall apply:

(1) A person shall not take an animal without a permit for that species, location, and time period.

(2) Hunting shall be by reservation only on those days and units designated and published by the area manager. The area manager shall determine the number of reserved hunting permits to be issued. Applicants may not apply for

more permits than authorized per hunter. The hunting reservation is not transferable from the original applicant to any other person.

(3) To hunt together as a party in a party permit area, all members of a group must register together prior to the drawing, except that up to 2 absentee hunters not present for the drawing may join a party of 2 or 3 if that hunter's registration information is completed on the party registration card is filed in the check station at the time of the drawing and the maximum party size is not exceeded. To register absentee hunters, the individuals complete waterfowl hunting license including the Federal Duck Stamp or a copy of it is required. Party members must hunt together in their assigned permit area.

(4) During a day designated and published by the area manager as "youth day(s)," hunting parties made up of at least 1 youth, 16 years old or younger, shall be given first priority for hunting permits.

(a) A parent or legal guardian shall not allow a youth hunter 10 through 16 years of age to go afield to hunt waterfowl unless the youth hunter is accompanied by a licensed adult at least 18 years of age and in accordance with section 3.402 of this order

(b) Youth hunters under 10 years of age must be licensed through the mentored youth hunting program and accompanied by a qualified mentor as described in section 2.14 of this order.

(5) It is unlawful to use or possess any shot, whether loose or loaded in shotshells, of a material other than those specified in section 3.411, subsections (1) to (3) except single projectile loads.

13.3a Pointe Mouillee state game area; additional rules.

Sec. 13.3a The following rules are established on those portions of the Pointe Mouillee state game area located in all or portions of sections 21, 22, 27, 28, 33, 34 T04S R11E; 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 35, and 36 T05S R10E; sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 30 and 31, T05S R11E; sections 1, 2, 11 and 12, of T06S R10E, and section 6 of T06 R11E, Monroe and Wayne counties:

(1) It is unlawful to use or possess any shot, whether loose or loaded in shotshells, of a material other than those specified in section 3.411, subsections (1) to (3) except single projectile loads.

(2) Within the managed waterfowl hunting area as defined in 3.419, a current hunting license and appropriate stamps shall constitute a valid permit to hunt in the non-refuge areas, except as specified in 13.3 (3) and (4).

(3) Within the managed waterfowl hunting area as defined in 3.419, hunting permits are required for all waterfowl hunting and permits shall be returned to the check station immediately upon completion of the hunting period for which it was valid or upon termination of hunting, whichever occurs first.

(4) During the regular waterfowl season, small game and deer hunting are prohibited within the managed waterfowl hunting area as defined in 3.419.

(5) Within the managed waterfowl hunting area as defined in 3.419, it is prohibited to possess or use more than 25 shells during any hunting period.

13.6 Muskegon county wastewater system; additional rules.

Sec. 13.6 The following rules and regulations apply to managed hunting on the leased lands of the Muskegon county wastewater system, being sections 1, 2, 10 to 14, 23, and 24, T10N R15W; sections 6 to 8, 17 to 20, 29 to 32, T10N R14W, Muskegon county, as posted:

(1) Hunting will be authorized only for waterfowl (ducks and geese) from morning opening hour to 2:00 p.m. on weekdays. On Saturdays and Sundays, hunts will take place from the morning opening hour to noon, and from 1:00 p.m. to closing hour.

(2) A person hunting shall have:

(a) Personal identification.

(b) A daily permit issued by the department at the Muskegon state game area headquarters.

(3) Controls:

(a) Only hunters with official permits will be admitted to the wastewater property or permitted to remain in the hunting area. Driving on the wastewater property is restricted to the most direct route to and from official parking areas. Other driving will require a permit from the county wastewater headquarters.

(b) Hunters shall only park in parking areas assigned at the drawings.

(c) Hunters shall not hunt outside of their assigned hunting zone, area, blind, or post. Hunters shall not possess loaded firearms or discharge firearms anywhere except from their assigned zone, area, blind, or post.

(d) Hunters shall not leave the area without returning their hunting permit and submitting all game taken for examination, unless directed to do otherwise by a posted sign or by instructions printed on their permit to hunt.

(e) It is prohibited to possess or use more than 25 shotshells with shot size greater than BBB during any hunting period.

(f) Hunters' permits and firearms will be subject to inspection by department or Muskegon county personnel.

(4) During a day designated and published by the area manager as "youth day(s)," hunting parties made up of at least 1 youth, 10 to 16 years old, accompanied by 1 or 2 parents, guardians, or other persons authorized by the parent or guardian who is 18 years of age or older, with appropriate licenses and stamps, shall be given first priority for hunting permits.

(5) It is unlawful to use or possess any shot, whether loose or loaded in shotshells, of a material other than those specified in section 3.411, subsections (1) to (3), except single projectile loads.

13.9 Shiawassee river state game area; rules.

Sec. 13.9 The following rules are established on those portions of the Shiawassee river state game area, Saginaw county, posted "state game area - hunting by permit only" being all or portions of sections 13, 14, 15, 16 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 of T11N R03E; sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 11 of T10N R03E; and sections 19 and 30 of T11N R04E:

(1) A current hunting license and appropriate stamps shall constitute a valid permit to hunt in the non-refuge areas, except as specified in 13.9 (2) and (5).

(2) Hunting permits are required for all deer and waterfowl hunting and permits shall be returned to the check station immediately upon completion of the hunting period for which it was valid or upon termination of hunting, whichever occurs first.

(3) During the firearm deer seasons, a person hunting deer under a valid permit may only use single projectile loads.

(4) It shall be unlawful to camp or attempt to camp on designated parking areas or on any lands posted "state game area - hunting by permit only" from October 1 to January 1.

(5) During any waterfowl season within the managed waterfowl hunting area, small game and firearm deer hunting are prohibited.

(6) During the regular November firearm deer season there shall be no small game hunting.

(7) It is prohibited to possess or use more than 25 shotshells during any hunting period.

(8) It is unlawful to use motion-winged decoys.

(9) It is prohibited to hunt deer with firearms during any open waterfowl hunting season, except as follows:

(a) During any waterfowl season within the managed waterfowl hunting area, small game and firearm deer hunting is prohibited.

(b) Firearm managed deer hunting may be allowed from September 1 to January 1 of the following year, including areas posted as "wildlife refuge – do not enter," by the wildlife supervisor or department designee if the department determines that conditions exist that significantly reduce habitat for waterfowl hunting. Participants must possess a valid deer management unit 273 hunting permit and current hunting licenses.

(10) Refuge deer hunting permits and non-refuge deer hunting permits may be issued to persons chosen in random drawings from applicants for different hunting periods for days designated by the management unit supervisor or representative. Permits shall not be transferred or altered.

13.11 Allegan state game area, Fennville farm unit; additional rules.

Sec. 13.11 Within the Fennville farm unit, being all or portions of sections 5, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 30 of T02N R15W; sections 12, 13, and 24 of T02N R16W, posted "state game area - hunting by permit only" or "wildlife refuge – do not enter" the following rules are established:

(1) It is unlawful to use or possess any shot, whether loose or loaded in shotshells, of a material other than those specified in section 3.411, except single projectile loads.

(2) During a day designated by the management unit supervisor or their representative as "youth day", only hunting parties made up of one to four youths, 16 years old or younger, with appropriate licenses and stamps, will be included in the daily drawing. Only youths will be permitted to hunt.

(a) A parent or legal guardian shall not allow a youth hunter 10 through 16 years of age to go afield to hunt waterfowl unless the youth hunter is accompanied by a licensed adult at least 18 years of age in accordance with section 3.402 of this order.

(b) Youth hunters under 10 years of age must be licensed through the mentored youth hunting program and accompanied by a qualified mentor as described in section 2.14 of this order.

(3) A current hunting license and appropriate stamps shall constitute a valid permit to hunt in the non-refuge areas when the area goose season is closed and in zones 1, 9, and 10 during the goose season, except on designated days the management unit supervisor or their representative may suspend hunting for all animals in specified areas and allow hunting only under authority of a validated party registration hunting permit.

(4) The management unit supervisor or their representative, at their discretion, during the appropriate hunting season, may allow hunting on designated dates within the areas posted "wildlife refuge – do not enter" through a random drawing under the authority of a validated daily party registration hunting permit.

(5) On days designated by the management unit supervisor or their representative, during the deer hunting season, refuge deer hunting permits and non-refuge deer hunting permits may be issued to persons chosen in random drawings from applicants for different hunting periods. Permits shall not be transferred or altered.

(6) Deer hunting under the authority of a validated party registration hunting permit issued through a drawing may occur from opening hour until noon, for antlerless deer only, on the dates designated by the management unit supervisor or their representative.

(7) No person shall possess a dog or use a dog for hunting in Fennville farm unit zones 2-7 or in the portion of zone 8 located in sections 18 and 19 of T02N R15W (Clyde township) except in areas designated as retriever dog zones by the management unit supervisor or their representative, wherein dogs may be used to retrieve downed waterfowl while in the act of waterfowl hunting.

(8) During area goose season:

(a) It is prohibited to possess or use more than 25 shotshells while waterfowl hunting under authority of a validated party registration hunting permit.

(9) No hunting of deer with firearms is permitted within the Fennville farm unit.

13.17 St. Clair flats state wildlife area, Harsens island unit; additional rules.

Sec. 13.17 The following rules are established on those portions of the St. Clair flats state wildlife area, Harsens island unit, St. Clair county, posted "state wildlife game area - hunting by permit only" being all or portions of sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, and 31 of T02N, R16E; sections 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35 and 36 of T02N, R15E:

(1) During the firearm deer seasons, a person hunting deer under a valid permit may only use single projectile loads.

(2) It is prohibited to possess or use more than 25 shells during any hunting period.

(3) A current hunting license and appropriate stamps shall constitute a valid permit to hunt in the non-refuge areas, except as specified in subsection (4).

(4) Hunting permits are required for all deer and waterfowl hunting and permits shall be returned to the check station immediately upon completion of the hunting period for which it was valid or upon termination of hunting, whichever occurs first.

(5) It is unlawful to use motion-winged decoys.

(6) It is prohibited to hunt deer with firearms during any open waterfowl hunting season, except as follows:

(a) Firearm managed deer hunting may be allowed from September 1 to January 1 of the following year, including areas posted as "wildlife refuge – do not enter," by the wildlife supervisor or department designee if the department determines that conditions exist that significantly reduce waterfowl habitat. Participants must possess a valid deer hunting permit and current hunting licenses.

(b) Firearm antlerless deer hunting may be allowed, including areas posted as "wildlife refuge – do not enter," by the wildlife supervisor or department designee from the first Monday following the third Saturday in December through January 1 of the following year. Participants must possess a valid deer hunting permit and current hunting licenses.

(7) Deer hunting may be allowed during the appropriate hunting season on dates designated by the management unit supervisor or representative, within the areas posted "wildlife refuge-do not enter," through a random drawing of validated daily party registration hunting permit.

(8) Refuge deer hunting permits and non-refuge deer hunting permits may be issued to persons chosen in random drawings from applicants for different hunting periods for days designated by the management unit supervisor or representative. Permits shall not be transferred or altered.

Issued on this 14th day of April 2016.

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

John Matonich, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

William E. Moritz, Ph.D.
Director

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