

## Winter Fox and Coyote Non-lethal Cable Restraints

**Non-lethal cable restraints** may be used from Jan. 1 through March 1 to take fox and coyotes, provided:

- Cable restraints are not placed on publicly owned land or commercial forest lands (page 20).
- All cable restraints in possession or carried afield must have a metallic identification tag attached which is affixed with the owner's or user's name and address or Michigan driver license number.
- Steel cable 1/16-inch or larger is used.
- The cable restraint loop does not exceed 15 inches in diameter.
- The top of the loop is not placed more than 24 inches above the ground. In snow, 24 inches is measured from the compacted snow in a trapper's footprint established by the full body weight of the trapper.
- Cable restraints are equipped with a relaxing lock. A relaxing lock is defined as a lock that allows the loop to loosen slightly to reduce the possibility of strangulation. Cable restraints also must be equipped with a stop to prevent the loop from closing to a diameter less than 4¼ inches. Regulations on loop size and relaxing lock are designed to prevent the accidental loss of domestic animals and other nontarget species.
- Cable restraints are equipped with a breakaway locking system with a breaking point not greater than 285 pounds. The breakaway device must be attached to the relaxing lock.
- Cable restraints are affixed to a stake or object sufficient to hold a fox or coyote. It is illegal to use any type of drag.
- Cable restraints are equipped with two swivels, including one swivel at the anchor point.
- Spring poles, counterbalanced weights, springs or other similar devices are not used to close the cable restraint.
- Cable restraints may be up to 60 inches in length, not including a cable anchor extension. The cable anchor extension may be up to 36 inches in length.
- Cable restraints are not attached to a fence or set in a manner that would allow an animal to become entangled in a fence.
- Cable restraints may be anchored to woody vegetation provided that the stem is free of branches and stubs to a height of five feet above the ground or compacted snow. Branches and stubs must be cut flush with the outer bark of the stem.
- Cable restraints may not be set so that a restrained animal is suspended with two or more feet off the ground.

**Note:** Dogs and other domestic animals caught in cable restraints, body-gripping or conibear type traps should be reported to the DNR Report All Poaching hotline at 800-292-7800. Information on safely removing dogs from traps may be found on the DNR website at [www.michigan.gov/trapping](http://www.michigan.gov/trapping) under Related Resources.

## Furbearer Registration

A person taking a bobcat, fisher, marten, otter or incidental catches must present the animal at a DNR office for registration. See the table below for registration dates. Furtakers must register their own take. It is unlawful to register the take of another person. Operations Service Centers will be, and other DNR offices may be, open during normal business hours. **Hunters and trappers are strongly encouraged to call ahead to determine availability of DNR personnel or to make arrangements to register animals outside normal working hours on an appointment basis.**

The DNR will attach an official seal to the pelt of each animal. This seal replaces the furbearer kill tag that was attached to the hide immediately after harvest (see Furbearer Kill Tags section on page 21). The location of take, date of harvest and manner of harvest will be recorded when the animal is sealed. The skull will also be collected to determine the sex, age and physical condition of the specimen. Skulls will be retained and will not be returned. In 2010, fur harvesters were only required to submit fisher skulls and skulls or canine teeth from bobcat and marten. Requiring skulls from all species standardizes the registration process and ensures tooth samples are undamaged for aging and adequate material is available for DNA analysis. In addition, the DNR is developing new population estimation techniques for furbearer species. These new techniques require precise sex and age information which will be obtained from skulls.

Seals may be removed by a licensed taxidermist upon acceptance and recording of the specimen. Otherwise, seals shall not be removed until the pelt is processed or tanned, nor shall a person possess or transport a raw, unsealed hide after the required registration date for each animal. A person may not buy or sell a bobcat, fisher, marten or otter pelt without a DNR seal unless the pelt has been processed or tanned.

Animals should be skinned prior to registration. The pelt and carcass or skull should be brought in to a local DNR office for registration.

Species	What is required for registration?	What will be kept from each specimen?	When must I register?
<b>Bobcat</b>	The skull and pelt for sealing.	The skull.	<b>Bobcat:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trapping Season Units A &amp; B, on or before Feb. 11, 2012 Units C &amp; D, on or before Dec. 30, 2011</li> <li>• Hunting Season Units A, B &amp; C, on or before Mar. 11, 2012 Unit D, on or before Feb. 11, 2012</li> </ul> <b>Fisher and Marten:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on or before Dec. 20, 2011</li> </ul> <b>Otter:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on or before May 4, 2012</li> </ul>
<b>Fisher</b>	The skull and pelt for sealing.	The skull.	
<b>Marten</b>	The skull and pelt for sealing.	The skull.	
<b>Otter</b>	The skull and pelt for sealing.	The skull.	
<b>Incidental catches*</b>	The entire carcass and pelt.	The entire carcass and pelt.	See page 21 for details.

\*Includes wolves, lynx, and over-harvest of badger, bobcat, fisher, marten and otter.

## Firearm, Crossbow and Bow and Arrow Rules

Centerfire or rimfire rifles may be used Dec. 1-Nov. 9 in the Shotgun Zone during the open season for all species **except** no rifles may be used for deer, turkeys and migratory game birds. See page 20 for Nighttime Raccoon and Predator Hunting restrictions.

The rules listed below may not apply to those having a concealed pistol license or those specifically exempt by law from a concealed pistol license and who carry their handgun in accordance with their license or exemption.

### Shell Capacity for Shotguns and Centerfire Rifles

It is unlawful to hunt with a semi-automatic shotgun or semi-automatic rifle that can hold more than six shells in the barrel and magazine combined unless it is a .22 caliber rimfire. Fully automatic firearms are illegal. All shotguns used for migratory game birds (including woodcock) must be plugged so the total capacity of the shotgun does not exceed three shells.

### Crossbows

Any licensed hunter who is 10 years old or older and has obtained a free crossbow stamp can hunt with a crossbow during any season in which a firearm is allowed, for both big and small game, **except** hunters in the Upper Peninsula may not use a crossbow or a modified bow during the Dec. 1 - Jan. 1 late archery deer season and Dec. 2-11 muzzleloader deer season, unless the hunter is disabled and has a crossbow permit or special permit to take game with a modified bow.

Any licensed hunter 10 years old or older may use a crossbow throughout the archery deer season in the Lower Peninsula (Oct. 1 - Nov. 14 and Dec. 1 - Jan. 1) and during the early archery deer season in the Upper Peninsula (Oct. 1 - Nov. 14). Crossbow use is not allowed in the Red Oak Unit during the archery-only bear season (Oct. 7-13).

The DNR may issue a crossbow permit or a special permit to take game with a modified bow to a person with a valid hunting license to take a deer during an open deer season, if the person is certified as having **permanent or temporary** disability, as defined in Wildlife Conservation Order 5.95, which renders a person unable to use conventional archery equipment. Hunters may use a modified bow where crossbows are legal. A modified bow is a bow, other than a crossbow, that has been physically altered so that it may be held, aimed and shot with one arm.

When hunting deer, bear, elk and turkey, crossbow hunters must use only arrows, bolts and quarrels with a broadhead hunting type of point not less than 7/8 of an inch wide with a minimum of 14 inches in length. For hunter orange clothing requirements, see page 30.

### Archery Deer Seasons

During the archery deer seasons, it is illegal to carry afield a pistol, revolver or other firearm while bow hunting for deer.

**Exceptions:** This prohibition does not apply to pistols carried under authority of a concealed pistol license or properly carried under authority of a specific exception from the requirement of a concealed pistol license. However, a concealed pistol license does not authorize the individual to use the pistol to take game except as provided by law.

### November 10-14

It is unlawful to carry afield or transport any rifle (including rimfire) or shotgun if you have buckshot, slug, ball loads or cut shells.

**Exception:** You may transport a firearm to your deer camp or to a target range during this period if the firearm is properly transported.

A resident who holds a fur harvester license may carry a .22 caliber or smaller rimfire firearm while hunting furbearers or checking a trap line during the open season for hunting furbearers or trapping furbearing animals. You also may target shoot on your own property provided there is no attempt to take game.

### November 15-30 Firearm Deer Season

It is illegal for a person taking or attempting to take game to carry or possess afield a centerfire or muzzleloading rifle, a crossbow, a bow and arrow, a centerfire or black powder handgun, or a shotgun with buckshot, slug or ball loads or cut shells, unless you have in your possession a 2011 firearm deer, combination deer or antlerless deer license for the appropriate DMU, with an unused kill tag issued in your name, or a 2011 firearm deer, combination deer or antlerless deer license for the appropriate DMU issued in your name with an unused Deer Management Assistance (DMA) permit kill tag or an unused managed deer hunting permit.

### Muzzleloading Deer Seasons

During the December muzzleloading seasons, muzzleloading deer hunters can carry afield and use only a crossbow (except in the Upper Peninsula) or a muzzleloading rifle, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a black powder handgun loaded with black powder or a commercially manufactured black powder substitute. Only certified disabled hunters may use a crossbow or a modified bow during the muzzleloading season in the Upper Peninsula.

### All Firearm Deer Seasons-Rifle Zone (See page 12)

In the rifle zone, deer may be taken with handguns, rifles, crossbows, bows and arrows, shotguns and muzzleloading firearms including black powder handguns. It is legal to hunt deer in the rifle zone with any caliber of firearm except a .22 caliber or smaller rimfire (rifle or handgun). During the firearm deer seasons, a firearm deer hunter may carry afield a bow and arrow, crossbow and firearm. **Exception:** See Muzzleloading Deer Seasons for restrictions during this season.

### All Firearm Deer Seasons-Shotgun Zone (See page 12)

In the shotgun zone, all hunters afield from Nov. 15-30, and all deer hunters in this zone during other deer seasons, must abide by the following firearm restrictions or use a crossbow or a bow and arrow. Legal firearms are as follows:

- A shotgun may have a smooth or rifled barrel and may be of any gauge.
- A muzzleloading rifle or black powder handgun must be loaded with black powder or a commercially manufactured black powder substitute.
- A conventional (smokeless powder) handgun must be .35 caliber or larger and loaded with straight-walled cartridges and may be single- or multiple-shot but cannot exceed a maximum capacity of nine rounds in the barrel and magazine combined.

During the firearm deer seasons, a firearm deer hunter may carry afield a bow and arrow, crossbow and firearm. **Exceptions:**

- See Muzzleloading Deer Seasons above for restrictions during this season.
- From Nov. 15-30, a .22 caliber or smaller rimfire rifle or handgun may be used to kill a raccoon while hunting raccoons with dogs between the hours of 7 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- A .22 caliber or smaller rimfire may be used to dispatch coyote, fox, raccoon, bobcat and badger from Nov. 15-30 in the Shotgun Zone provided the firearm is loaded at the point of kill only.

### License Requirement–Possession of Firearms, Crossbows and Bows and Arrows

Those taking or attempting to take game and in possession of a firearm, crossbow, slingshot or bow and arrow must have the appropriate hunting license with them and the identification used to purchase that license and exhibit both upon demand of a Michigan conservation officer, a tribal conservation officer or any other law enforcement officer. Those using a crossbow must obtain a free crossbow stamp annually.

A hunting license is not required when target practicing or sighting-in a firearm at an identifiable, artificially constructed target, and there is no attempt to take game.

## Transporting Firearms, Crossbows, and Bows and Arrows

These rules apply whether your vehicle is parked, stopped, moving or is on private or public property. Firearms must be unloaded in the barrel, and all arrows must be in a quiver when a hunter is afield outside the legal hunting hours.

At all times when carried in or on a motor vehicle, including snowmobiles:

- Rifles, shotguns, muzzleloading and other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine and enclosed in a case or carried in the trunk of a vehicle.
- Crossbows, slingshots and bows and arrows must be enclosed in a case or unstrung or carried in the trunk of a vehicle.

At all times, when carried in or on an off-road vehicle (ORV):

- Rifles, shotguns, muzzleloading and other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine and enclosed in a case or equipped with and made inoperative by a manufactured keylocked trigger-housing mechanism.
- Crossbows, slingshots and bows and arrows must be enclosed in a case or unstrung.

At all times, when carried in or on a motor-propelled boat or sailboat:

- Rifles, shotguns, muzzleloading and other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine when the motor is operating or the boat is under sail.
- Firearms may not be loaded until the forward momentum of the boat has ceased.

**Exception:** These rules do not apply to a pistol carried under authority of a concealed pistol license or properly carried under authority of a specific exemption from the requirement of a concealed pistol license. See Statewide Handgun Regulations below.

A percussion cap muzzleloading longarm is considered unloaded if the percussion cap is removed. A flintlock muzzleloading longarm is considered unloaded if the cock is left down and the pan is open. Black powder handguns must be transported as stated above. A muzzleloading firearm that has an electric ignition system is considered unloaded if the battery is removed.

## Statewide Handgun Regulations

The rules listed below may not apply to those having a concealed pistol license (CPL) or specifically exempt by law from a CPL and carrying their handgun in accordance with their license or exemption.

- A person must be at least 18 years of age to hunt with (possess) a handgun.
- Handguns cannot be borrowed or loaned to another person other than provided for under the CPL.
- While in the field, handguns must be carried in plain view. Carrying a handgun in a holster in plain view is permitted.
- You may transport your registered handguns while in route to and from your hunting or target shooting area; however, handguns, including BB guns larger than .177 caliber and all pellet guns, must be unloaded and in a closed case designed for the storage of firearms and cannot be readily accessible to any occupant of the vehicle.
- It is a crime for certain felons to possess firearms, including rifles and shotguns, in Michigan.
- Nonresidents must have a CPL or a license to purchase, carry or transport issued by their home state in their possession in order to legally carry or transport a handgun in Michigan.

For more information regarding statewide handgun regulations, obtaining a CPL, or concealed weapons and firearms laws, contact your local police department.

## Artificial Lights and Shining

It is illegal to use an artificial light (including vehicle headlights) to locate wild animals at any time during November and all other days of the year between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. It is illegal to use an artificial light on a highway or in a field, wetland, woodland or forest while having in your possession or control a bow and arrow, firearm or other device capable of shooting a projectile.

**Exception:** This prohibition does not apply to pistols carried under the authority of a concealed pistol license or properly carried under authority of a specific exemption from the requirement of a concealed pistol license. This does not authorize the individual to use the pistol to take game except as provided by law.

An artificial light may be used from Nov. 1-30 on property you own or property owned by a member of your immediate family if you do not have in your possession or control a bow and arrow, firearm or other device capable of shooting a projectile.

It is a violation of federal law to shine at any time on any national wildlife refuge.

Deer hunters may use an artificial light one hour before and one hour after shooting hours while carrying an unloaded firearm or bow and arrow when traveling on foot to or from their hunting location.

See Nighttime Raccoon and Predator Hunting on page 20, for artificial light regulations when hunting raccoon, opossum, fox and coyote at night.

Persons not possessing a firearm or bow and arrow while traveling on foot may use lights during dog training or field trials to follow dogs chasing raccoon, opossum or fox. A lighted pin sight on a bow or a scope with illuminated crosshairs may be used to hunt game during legal hunting hours.

**Note:** If you are using an artificial light to locate game, you must immediately stop your vehicle when signaled by a uniformed officer or marked patrol vehicle.

## Hunting and Trapping within a Road or Railroad Right-of-Way

You may hunt and trap within a road right-of-way where the adjoining property is publicly owned. If the adjacent property is privately owned, you must have permission from the landowner. Railroad rights-of-way are private property. Trespassing on railroad property is a misdemeanor. You must have written permission from the railroad company to be exempt from trespass.

## Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

Michigan is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, an agreement whereby participating states share information about fish and game violators and honor each other's decision to deny licenses and permits.

Poachers beware. If your hunting, fishing or trapping license is revoked in Michigan, you may lose your privileges in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. **Note:** If your license is revoked in any of these states it also may be in Michigan.

Failure to comply with the terms of a wildlife-related citation may result in license suspension in participating states.

## Hunter Orange Clothing Requirements

You may not hunt with any device, or trap with any firearm, on any lands during daylight hunting hours from Aug. 15-April 30 unless you wear a hat, cap, vest, jacket or rain gear of highly visible orange color, commonly referred to as hunter orange. When hunting in any season with a license that authorizes the use of a firearm, you must wear hunter orange except as noted below. During the November firearm deer season, this law applies to all deer hunters, including those hunting with a bow and arrow. The garment featuring hunter orange must be the outermost garment and must be visible from all sides. Camouflage orange garments, with 50 percent or more of the surface in hunter orange, are legal.

**Exception:** This law does not apply to persons hunting waterfowl, crow, wild turkey, or to persons engaged in the sport of falconry. It does not apply to archery or crossbow bear hunters or to persons who are stationary and in the act of hunting bobcat, coyote or fox. Archery and crossbow deer hunters also are not required to wear hunter orange except during the youth firearm seasons, early antlerless firearm and the November firearm deer season.

## Hunters, Do NOT Move Firewood

Hunters can help stop the spread of the emerald ash borer (EAB) in Michigan by leaving firewood at home and buying it after they reach their destination. Moving firewood can spread EAB and puts Michigan's 700 million ash trees at risk. A quarantine is in place which prohibits the movement of all non-coniferous (hardwood) firewood out of quarantined areas. The movement of non-coniferous firewood into the Upper Peninsula is illegal. For more information, visit [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info) or call the EAB hotline at 866-325-0023.

## Dog Training

You may train dogs on wild animals only from July 8 - April 15.

**Exception:** Michigan residents may train dogs on fox on state lands in Zone 3 (see page 12) under special permit. See the 2011 Michigan Bear Hunting Digest for dog/bear training restrictions.

For information on how to release dogs from traps or snares go to: [www.michigan.gov/trapping](http://www.michigan.gov/trapping) and look under Related Resources.

## Important Live Animal Restrictions

**Live Animals** — It is illegal to possess live game or protected animals taken from the wild except under a permit issued by the DNR.

**Importation Bans** — It is illegal to bring live raccoon, skunk, wild rabbit or hare, wild turkey or wild turkey hybrid or their eggs, or mute swan or their eggs into Michigan. It is illegal to import or possess a lynx or cougar without an endangered species permit. There is a moratorium on importing deer and elk into Michigan.

**Rehabilitation** — A permit is required to rehabilitate a wild animal in Michigan. It is illegal to possess a live bat, skunk, mute swan, moose or elk. It also is illegal to rehabilitate a deer unless the origin of the deer is positively confirmed to be from outside Alcona, Alpena, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle counties. Rehabilitated raccoons must be released only in the same county where captured, otherwise they must be euthanized.

## Protected Wildlife

Eagles, hawks, owls, spruce grouse, flying squirrels, wolverines, wolves, lynx, moose, cougars, cub bears and sow bears accompanied by cubs may not be taken at any time. All nongame birds are protected, except starlings, house sparrows and feral pigeons.

## Commercial Hunting Guides on State Land

All commercial hunting guides using state-owned lands require department oversight. In 2011, all commercial hunting guides utilizing state-owned lands must receive written authorization. Guides are also required to meet the conditions of the written authorization.

If you are a guide who utilizes state-owned lands, please visit the DNR website at [www.michigan.gov/statelandpermission](http://www.michigan.gov/statelandpermission) or contact Brenda Mikula at [mikulab@michigan.gov](mailto:mikulab@michigan.gov) or (231) 597-0472 for more information.

## Raised Platforms and Tree Stands

The following persons may hunt from a raised platform or tree stand:

- All bow and crossbow hunters.
- Bear and deer hunters when using a firearm.
- Fox and coyote hunters from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

All other firearm hunters are prohibited from using a raised platform or tree stand. A raised platform means a horizontal surface constructed or manufactured by a person that increases the field of vision of a person using the horizontal surface beyond the field of vision that normally would be attained by that person standing on the ground.

If you hunt on public land, your tree stand must be portable and your name and address must be affixed in legible English that can be easily read from the ground. Hunting platforms cannot be affixed or attached to any tree by nails, screws or bolts; however, a "T" bolt or similar device supplied by a tree stand manufacturer can be used.

Screw-in tree steps are illegal on public lands. It is illegal to use any item that penetrates through the bark of a tree in the construction or affixing of any device to assist in climbing a tree. Scaffolds, raised platforms, ladders, steps and any other device to assist in climbing a tree cannot be placed on public lands any earlier than Sept. 1, and must be removed by March 1. A permanent raised platform or tree stand may be used for hunting on private land with the permission of the landowner.

It is unlawful to use an illegal tree stand, scaffold, step, etc., regardless of who placed it on public lands. Your name on a tree stand or ground blind on public land does not guarantee exclusive use.

## Mandatory Penalties for Certain Hunting Violations

Violation of permits, season, bag limits, shooting hours and methods of taking game	\$50 to \$500 fine and/or up to 90 days in jail.
Illegal taking/possession of deer, bear or wild turkey	\$200 to \$1,000 fine and 5 to 90 days in jail, restitution of \$1500 for bear, \$1000 for deer/turkey, plus revocation of hunting licenses for remainder of year convicted, plus next 3 consecutive years.
Illegal use of artificial light with bow and arrow, crossbow, or firearm.	\$100 to \$500 fine and/or 90 days in jail, plus revocation of hunting licenses for remainder of year convicted, plus next consecutive year.
Carrying a firearm while under the influence of alcohol or drugs	\$500 fine and/or up to 93 days in jail.
Multiple offender: Three convictions within preceding five years	\$500 to \$2,000 fine and 10 to 180 days in jail.

## Ground Blinds on Public Land

A ground blind means a structure, enclosure or any material, natural or manufactured, placed on the ground to assist in concealing or disguising the user or occupant for the purpose of taking an animal. Any ground blind on public land that does not meet the requirements of either Type 1, 2 or 3 described below is an illegal ground blind.

**Exception:** See the 2011-2012 Waterfowl Hunting Digest for regulations on waterfowl hunting blinds.

Only the following types of ground blinds are legal on public land:

**Type 1 (Portable Ground Blind).** This blind must be clearly portable and removed at the end of each day's hunt. Fasteners, if used to attach or anchor the blind, cannot penetrate the cambium of a tree and also must be removed daily. No identification is required. These blinds may be used for legal hunting on public land, including all state game areas, state parks and state recreation areas in Zone 3 (see page 12).

**Type 2 (Dead Natural Materials Ground Blind).** This blind must be constructed exclusively of dead natural materials found in the area of the blind except that a hunter may add netting, cloth, plastic or other materials for concealment or protection from the weather if these materials are not permanently fastened to the blind and are removed at the end of each day's hunt.

These items can be tied to the blind but cannot be stapled, nailed, glued or fastened in any permanent manner. No identification is required. Fasteners (nails, screws, etc.) cannot be used in construction. These blinds may be used for legal hunting on public land, including all state game areas, state parks and state recreation areas in Zone 3 (see page 12).

**Type 3 (Constructed Ground Blind).** This includes all other blinds not meeting the requirements of either Type 1 or Type 2, including portable ground blinds, if not removed daily.

Bear hunters may place constructed ground blinds on state lands in bear management units open to bear hunting for which they have a bear license beginning Aug. 10 in Zone 1 units and in Zone 2 units beginning Aug. 17. Blinds must be removed within five days of a bear being harvested, or within five days of the end of the bear season for which the hunter has a license.

Constructed ground blinds on all Zone 1 and Zone 2 public lands for deer hunting shall remain legal from Nov. 6 to the end of the annual deer season. In addition to criminal penalties, any constructed blind found on public land prior to Nov. 6 or after the end of the annual deer season will be considered abandoned.

The name and address of the person placing a constructed ground blind on public land must be permanently attached, etched, engraved or painted on the blind. These blinds are not legal on state game areas, state parks and state recreation areas in Zone 3 (see page 12). Fasteners, if used to anchor or attach the blind, cannot penetrate the cambium of a tree and must be removed with the blind.

It is unlawful to use an illegal ground blind, regardless of who placed it on public land.

**Note:** If a person's Type 3 ground blind has been permitted to be placed on land administered by a local public agency (city, township, county), the local agency will establish the length of time that a blind may be placed on its property.

**Hunters with disabilities** — Please see page 33 for special ground blind rules on public lands.

## Additional Hunting Rules

### It is illegal to:

- Engage in hunting, fishing, trapping or gathering as a non-tribal member with a tribal member who is exercising a treaty right, unless the non-tribal person possesses a license from, and fully complies with the laws of the state of Michigan, including season dates, governing the activity.
- Hunt or pursue wild animals or birds from a car, snowmobile, aircraft, motorboat, personal water craft, ORV or other motorized vehicle, or by a sailboat.
- Set fires to drive out game.
- Use snares, traps, cages, nets, pitfalls, deadfalls, spears, drugs, poisons, chemicals, smoke, gas, explosives, ferrets, weasels or mechanical devices other than firearms, crossbows, bows and arrows, or slingshots to take wild birds or animals, except as provided by trapping rules or special permit.
- Buy or sell game, except as provided by trapping rules or captive wildlife permit.
- Destroy the identity of game or evidence of the sex of game while in the field or when transported in a motor vehicle.  
**Exception:** See Transportation of Game, page 19, for deer, bear and elk.
- Hunt from a tree, raised platform or scaffold with a firearm.  
**Exceptions:** See page 30 for rules when hunting bear, deer, fox and coyote. Also see 2011-2012 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Digest for waterfowl hunting blind regulations.
- Hunt while under the influence of intoxicating alcohol or controlled substances.
- Use cartridges containing tracer or explosive bullets. A silencer or similar apparatus on a firearm is illegal.
- Camp on state land without a permit. Permits are free and are available at any DNR office. They must be posted at your campsite. A fee is charged for camping at designated campsites in state parks, recreation areas, state forest campgrounds and some state game areas.
- Make use of a dog in hunting deer except that a dog may be used to locate a down or mortally wounded deer or elk if the dog is kept on a leash and none of the persons in attendance possess a firearm or bow and arrow. If the tracking is done at night, artificial lights ordinarily carried in the hand, or on the person, may be used. A dog that barks while tracking the deer shall not be used on public lands.
- Harm or harass a deer or bear when it is swimming in a stream, river, pond, lake or other waterbody.
- Kill or wound any game without making a reasonable attempt to retrieve the animal and include it in the daily bag.
- Shoot reptiles and amphibians with a firearm (including spring, air or gas propelled).

## State Parks and Recreation Areas

All state parks and recreation areas are closed to hunting from April 1 through Sept. 14, except in areas designated open during the early Canada goose season and spring wild turkey season. Contact the individual park for hunting information.

Quail may be harvested only by field trial participants in the Highland and Ionia Recreation Area field trial areas on days with authorized field trials. Contact the area headquarters for field trial dates.

There is no trapping within 50 feet of the mowed portions of specific areas within state recreation areas. Check with the park headquarters for current trapping regulations and any restrictions for those areas prior to trapping.

It is illegal to target shoot in a state park or recreation area, except on a designated shooting range at Bald Mountain, Island Lake, Ortonville and Pontiac Lake recreation areas.

To make camping reservations, go to [www.midnrreservations.com](http://www.midnrreservations.com) or call 1-800-44-PARKS. Since Oct. 1, 2010, Michigan residents have had the opportunity to buy a Recreation Passport for \$10 when renewing their vehicle registration with the Secretary of State. The \$10 Recreation Passport gives you access to all 98 state parks and recreation areas and all DNR-administered boat launches in Michigan. For Michigan registered vehicles, the Recreation Passport replaces the daily (\$6) or annual (\$24) motor vehicle permit or boating access permit. Camping fees will remain in effect. For more information go to [www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport](http://www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport) or call 517-373-9900.

Out-of-state registered vehicles will require a daily (\$8) or annual (\$29) fee to enter any state park or DNR-administered boat launch.

## Hunting on National Forest Lands

All state laws apply to National Forest lands; however, additional federal regulations also apply.

**Wheeled Motor Vehicle Use:** A free Motor Vehicle Use Map that shows designated roads and trails open for motorized travel, including off-road vehicles, is available at Forest Service offices as well as online.

- Leaving equipment unattended for more than 24 hours is prohibited.
- Cross-country travel off designated routes is prohibited.
- Driving a motorized vehicle cross-country to blinds or to retrieve game is illegal.
- Both state and federal laws governing off-road vehicle use must be followed.

**Camping:** Camping in developed recreation areas is limited to 14 consecutive days, and camping in dispersed areas is limited to 16 consecutive days.

Don't forget:

- Leaving equipment unattended for more than 24 hours is prohibited.
- Campfires must be attended at all times and extinguished completely when you leave.
- Campers/trailers on National Forest land must be properly licensed or registered.

**Blinds:** Blinds/stands must be portable and temporary. The name, phone number and address of owner must be attached. Failure to remove ANY type of blind, structure, equipment or trash will result in a fine and removal, destruction, impoundment and/or seizure of any abandoned or illegally placed item.

### Additional Information:

- It is prohibited to construct or maintain any food plot or any artificial garden to attract wildlife.
- Cutting of branches or limbs for shooting lanes or to construct blinds is prohibited.
- Blocking gates or road access is prohibited.
- Dragging roads with machinery, trees or brush is prohibited.
- Discharging a weapon within 150 yards of a building, campsite or occupied area or across a National Forest road or body of water is prohibited.

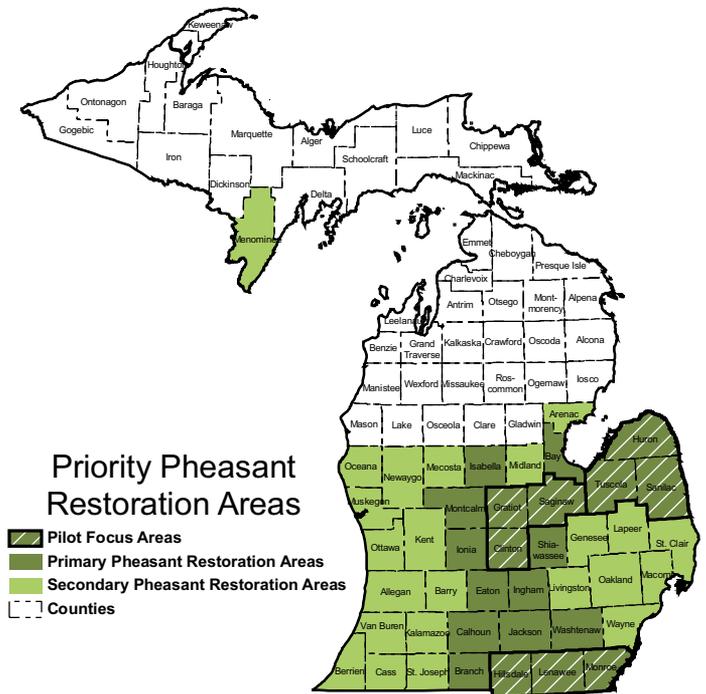
**For additional information:** Hiawatha NF: 906-786-4062; Huron-Manistee NF: 231-775-5023; Ottawa NF: 906-932-1330.

## Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative

Pheasant numbers in Michigan have declined in recent decades, due primarily to habitat loss caused by urban sprawl, intensive agriculture and increased forestation. To reverse this trend, the DNR has partnered with Pheasants Forever and other organizations to develop a comprehensive plan aimed at restoring Michigan's pheasant hunting heritage.

The Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative (MPRI) takes a landscape approach to develop habitat in areas identified as having the greatest potential to impact pheasants and pheasant hunting. The initiative targets three areas initially for pheasant habitat improvement, including Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola counties; Hillsdale, Lenawee and Monroe counties; and Gratiot, Saginaw and Clinton counties. The MPRI is not limited to these counties, but they will be the initial focus. A Geographic Information System (GIS) was used to identify priority areas in the state based on the potential to positively impact pheasant numbers. Factors in developing priority areas include: an open agricultural landscape, less forest and abundance of lands enrolled in federal Farm Bill conservation programs (such as the Conservation Reserve Program). The plan calls for identifying 10,000-acre cooperative areas where landowners are interested in resurrecting pheasant hunting. Once identified, DNR staff will then provide assistance on habitat prescriptions and help identify project partners that can provide further assistance. Habitat restoration efforts will focus on developing large blocks of undisturbed nesting cover, winter cover and winter food.

To increase access to pheasant hunting lands, the initiative will target habitat restoration on state lands within the priority counties and increase acreage available in the Hunting Access Program. For additional information, please visit [www.michigan.gov/pheasant](http://www.michigan.gov/pheasant).



## Information for Hunters with Disabilities

Information and applications for all of the following are available at DNR Operations Service Centers (see page 7) or online at [www.michigan.gov/hunting](http://www.michigan.gov/hunting).

### Hunters who are Legally Blind

Legally blind hunters may use laser sighting devices to take game, subject to all other regulations, with a firearm or crossbow if all the following conditions are met:

- The person is accompanied by a sighted person who is at least 18 years of age;
- The sighted person possesses proof of a current or previous hunting license (other than an apprentice license) or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety class;
- The legally blind person possesses the appropriate hunting license and proof of impairment in the form of a Secretary of State ID card. No permit is necessary for this accommodation.

### Resident Veterans with Disabilities

- A resident of Michigan who has been determined by the **U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs** to be permanently and totally disabled (for a disability other than blindness) is eligible to purchase senior hunting and trapping licenses from any license agent. A letter from the Veterans Administration stating the person is totally and permanently disabled and eligible for veterans benefits at the 100 percent rate is required. Documentation of eligibility from the Veterans Administration shall be in the possession of a veteran using these licenses.
- A veteran who has been determined to have a 100 percent disability or is rated as individually unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs may participate in the Youth Firearm and 100 Percent Disabled Veteran Firearm Deer Hunting Days, Sept. 24-25, 2011, on all lands in Michigan. Documentation from the Veterans Administration shall be in the possession of a veteran participating in this hunt. Eligible hunters with a firearm or combination license may take an antlered or antlerless deer during this special two-day season. All hunters participating in this season must wear hunter orange.

### Permits for Hunters with Disabilities Crossbow Permit

A person with a disability may apply for a crossbow permit. A physician can automatically certify a hunter as eligible for a crossbow permit if the hunter:

- has an amputation involving body extremities required for stable function to use conventional archery equipment, or
- has a spinal cord injury resulting in permanent disability to the lower extremities, leaving the applicant permanently non-ambulatory, or
- has a permanent wheelchair restriction.

If none of the above criteria apply, physicians, physical therapists or occupational therapists can certify hunters who fail:

- a functional draw test that equals 35 pounds of resistance and involves holding it for four seconds, or
- a manual muscle test involving the grading of shoulder and elbow flexion and extension, or
- an impaired range-of-motion test involving the shoulder or elbow.

In addition, a physician can recommend a crossbow permit for other temporary or permanent disabilities, such as neuromuscular conditions. For more information and an application, call 517-373-1204.

### Modified Bow Permit

A person with a temporary or permanent disability who has the full use of only one arm may apply for a modified bow permit. This permit allows modifications to a compound bow, including the addition of an overdraw lock device. This modification may not convert a compound bow into a crossbow. For more information, go to [www.pcba-inc.org/](http://www.pcba-inc.org/).

### Permit to Hunt from a Standing Vehicle

A person who, due to injury, disease, amputation or paralysis, is permanently disabled and unable to walk, may apply for a permit to hunt from a standing vehicle. This permit allows a person to hunt, and shoot from, a parked motor vehicle or ORV. Subject to all other regulations, this permit also entitles the holder to take a deer of either sex under any valid deer license.

### Hunters Using ORVs

A person holding a valid permit to hunt from a standing vehicle or a person with disabilities hunting while using an off-road vehicle (ORV) may display an orange flag to identify themselves as a hunter with disabilities.

### Special Disabled Firearm Hunt

Those who meet one of the eligibility requirements below may hunt deer on private land in a special firearm season from Oct. 13-16, 2011:

- Persons who have been issued permits to hunt from a standing vehicle.
- Persons who are legally blind.
- Veterans who have a 100 percent disability or are classified as individually unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

### Permit to Hunt Using a Laser Sighting Device

Hunters with other permanent disabilities may apply to the DNR Law Enforcement Division for a permit to use a laser sighting device with a firearm or crossbow to take game. Subject to all other regulations, a permittee may take game with the use of a laser sighting device only if accompanied by a person who is at least 18 years of age who is licensed to hunt the same game (other than an apprentice license). For application information, please call 517-373-1230.

### Use of Ground Blinds on Public Land by Hunters with Disabilities

Any person who has been issued a permit to hunt from a standing vehicle, or who has been issued a disabled person parking permit by the Secretary of State, or who meets the disability standards set forth in the Michigan Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Law, may use a constructed ground blind on public land. If the constructed ground blind is left overnight on public land, the following conditions must be met:

- The blind is placed on public land no earlier than 10 days prior to the hunting season for which it is used and is removed at the end of the season for which it is used.
- The disabled person has attached, etched, engraved or painted his or her name and address on the blind.
- Fasteners, if used to anchor or attach the blind, cannot penetrate the bark of a tree and must be removed with the blind.
- A non-disabled person can assist a disabled person in constructing a legal blind on public land.

**See "Note" on page 31 for removal exemption of ground blinds on local public agency lands.**

## Safe hunting is no accident.

The DNR requires all first-time hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1960 to take a hunter safety course. These classes are held in every county and in most communities at least once each year.

Information on classes can be found on the DNR website: [www.michigan.gov/hunting](http://www.michigan.gov/hunting). Individuals also can take a part of the course online.

**Be a safe and responsible hunter!**

## Wildlife Diseases

For additional information on wildlife diseases, contact the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab at 517-336-5030, or visit [www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases](http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases). Hunters may check their deer's or elk's CWD and TB lab results at this website or at [www.michigan.gov/dnr/lab](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/lab).

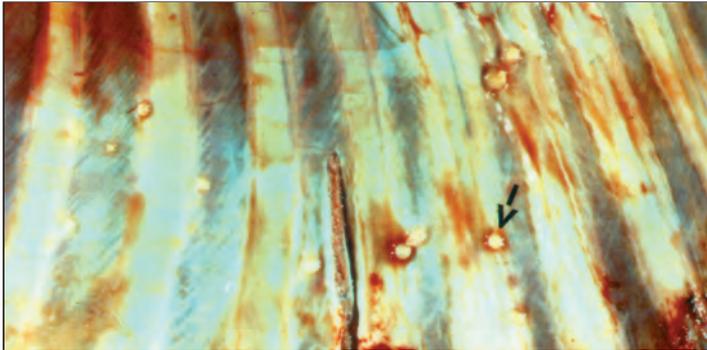
## Bovine Tuberculosis

In 2010, bovine tuberculosis (TB) was found in 24 wild white-tailed deer from five counties in Michigan: Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, Oscoda and Presque Isle. Statewide 4,960 deer were tested. Since 1995, a total of 687 deer have been found positive from 189,053 deer sampled in Michigan.

The DNR is urging hunters to submit their deer's head for TB testing if it was harvested in the following twelve counties: Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle and Roscommon. Hunters are asked to submit deer carcasses with chest lesions suspicious for TB from anywhere in the state. The list of deer check stations is available on the DNR website at [www.michigan.gov/deer](http://www.michigan.gov/deer).

As a part of Michigan's strategy to eliminate TB in deer and elk, hunting regulations in the six-county area (DMU 487), which includes Alcona, Alpena, Iosco, Montmorency, Oscoda and Presque Isle counties, have been designed to reduce the deer population, which will help decrease possible transmission of the disease.

**Feeding and baiting deer and elk also remains illegal in the six-county bovine TB zone or DMU 487.**



**Tuberculosis-infected deer may have multiple pea-sized tan or yellow lumps on the inside of the ribcage (above)...**



**... or on the lungs (above). The lesions may be different shapes and sizes than shown.**

## What Hunters Should Look for When Field Dressing Deer

Deer with severe TB may have tan or yellow lumps lining the chest wall and in the lung tissue (see photos above). If you see a deer with this type of infection, please contact the DNR so the carcass and viscera, in addition to the head, can be examined. Hunters taking deer in any of the counties listed above should turn in the deer's head for testing whether these signs of infection are present or not. For more information on Bovine TB in Michigan, visit [www.michigan.gov/bovinetb](http://www.michigan.gov/bovinetb).

## Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a disease of the nervous system that was first diagnosed at a research facility in Colorado in 1967. CWD has been diagnosed in captive and wild mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk and moose. CWD in deer, elk and moose is characterized by emaciation, drooling, behavioral abnormalities and death. Currently, there is no reliable live animal testing available for diagnosing CWD, nor is there a treatment available. According to public health officials, there is no evidence that CWD can be naturally transmitted to humans, or to animals other than deer, elk and moose.

Michigan is taking several steps to address CWD in the state:

- The importation of captive cervids (deer, elk and moose) has been banned.
- A surveillance and response plan has been developed to address the finding of CWD-positive captive or free-ranging cervid in Michigan.
- Hunters harvesting deer and elk in CWD states are restricted as to what game parts can be imported into Michigan.
- Michigan has been conducting CWD testing of deer, elk and moose since 1998.

## Michigan CWD Surveillance

A total of 34,957 free-ranging deer, elk and moose have been tested for CWD in Michigan and all have tested negative. However, one privately owned white-tailed deer in Kent County was diagnosed with CWD in August 2008.

The DNR conducts two types of CWD surveillance:

- **Active surveillance:** testing of outwardly healthy cervids harvested by hunters.
- **Targeted surveillance:** identifying and testing free-ranging cervids statewide that have been observed showing symptoms consistent with CWD (i.e. emaciation, behavioral changes, incoordination, loss of fear). If a deer, elk or moose is observed exhibiting symptoms of CWD, contact the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab at 517-336-5030 or the nearest DNR Operations Service Center. After hours, reports should be made to the DNR RAP line at 800-292-7800.

## 2011 CWD Surveillance Goals

Testing of deer in Kent County is no longer mandatory. The DNR will continue active surveillance in Kent and surrounding counties with the goal of testing 300 deer from Kent County and 600 deer from the surrounding counties. The DNR is urging hunters to submit their deer's head for CWD testing if it was harvested in the following nine counties: Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo and Ottawa. Any deer, elk or moose statewide displaying symptoms of CWD will also be tested.

## Hunters Importing Deer, Elk or Moose

Hunters importing harvested free-ranging deer, elk or moose from Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Alberta or Saskatchewan are restricted to bringing into Michigan only deboned meat, antlers, antlers attached to a skull cap cleaned of all brain and muscle tissue, hides cleaned of excess tissue or blood, upper canine teeth or a finished taxidermic mount.

If your deer, elk or moose is sampled for CWD testing, wait for the test results before eating the meat. If you are notified by another state or province that a deer, elk or moose you brought into Michigan tested positive for CWD, you must contact the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab within two business days (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at 517-336-5030 and provide details.

Any changes to importation regulations will be posted at [www.michigan.gov/chronicwastingdisease](http://www.michigan.gov/chronicwastingdisease). In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture may have regulations on importation from Canada. Contact them at 301-734-3277.

Although there is no evidence that CWD affects humans, the DNR advises hunters who take deer originating from states or provinces where CWD has been found to take these safety precautions:

- Minimize handling brain or spinal cord tissues.
- Avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen and lymph nodes of harvested animals.

## Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) is an acute, infectious, often fatal disease contracted by wild ruminants but most commonly affecting white-tailed deer. The EHD virus is classified as an Orbivirus. EHD is transmitted via the bite of an infected insect of the genus *Culicoides* which include midges, gnats and other biting flies. The disease cannot be transmitted from one animal to another by direct contact, and it is not transmissible to humans. EHD typically is detected in deer in late summer and early fall, and sick and dead deer are often found near water.

Deer infected with the virus appear lethargic, disoriented, lame and unresponsive to humans. As the disease progresses, the deer may have blood-tinged discharge from the nose and mouth along with sores in the mouth and a swollen tongue. Deer usually develop a high fever (they seek out water to decrease their body temperature -- that is why they are found near or in water), and the vascular system is affected. Hemorrhages are commonly present throughout the viscera, and blood is found in the body cavities.

In 2010, EHD was diagnosed in deer from the southwestern portion of the state in Allegan, Berrien, Cass, Ottawa, St. Joseph and Van Buren Counties. An estimate of 1,025 deer were involved in this die-off.

Although EHD occurs annually in many states across the U.S., it has only been reported in Michigan five times prior to 2010: in 1955 (~100 animals), 1974 (~100 animals), 2006 (~100 animals), 2008 (150-200 animals) and 2009 (300-450 animals). EHD outbreaks in Michigan may cause clusters of deer deaths in very localized areas. However, they rarely result in any significant declines in overall deer numbers.

## Precaution about Lead in Venison

Deer that are shot with rifle bullets containing lead, particularly copper-jacketed and hollow-point bullets, can have particles of lead remaining in the meat, some too small to be seen or felt.

Lead can be harmful to humans, even in very low amounts. Children under seven years old and pregnant women are at the greatest risk from lead exposure.

The following suggestions can minimize potential exposure to lead in venison:

- Remind your meat processor to, or if you process your own venison, trim a generous distance away from the wound channel and discard any meat that is bruised, discolored or contains hair, dirt or bone fragments.
- Avoid consuming internal organs.
- Practice marksmanship and outdoor skills to get closer, cleaner, lethal shots away from major muscle areas (don't shoot running deer).
- Consider alternative non-lead ammunition such as copper or others that have high-weight retention.

If you have questions about the health effects of lead exposure, call the Michigan Department of Community Health at 800-648-6942.

## Dioxin Advisory Information

Health risk assessors from the DNR and the Michigan Department of Community Health (DCH) have determined that samples of wild game taken in 2003, 2004 and 2007 from the floodplains of the Tittabawassee River and Saginaw River

downstream of Midland contain high levels of dioxin and dioxin-like compounds in muscle meats, skin and other consumable portions. Eating deer, turkey, squirrel, wood duck or Canada geese that contain dioxin at these levels could result in adverse health effects, particularly for children and women of childbearing age. Due to dioxin levels found in wild game, Health Advisories issued by DCH in 2004 and 2008 provide species-specific recommendations for deer, turkey, squirrel, wood duck and Canada goose. Specific information can be found at [www.michigan.gov/dioxin](http://www.michigan.gov/dioxin).

## Precautions When Handling and Processing Deer and Other Wild Game

- Hunters should not handle or consume deer or other wild animals that appear sick or act abnormally, regardless of the cause.
- Always wear heavy rubber or latex gloves when field dressing deer or other wild game.
- Keep a separate set of tools to use only for butchering deer.
- If intestinal contents contact meat, consider the meat contaminated; cut off and discard affected area.
- Proper carcass care in the field is vital to preserving wild game. Big game animals should be field dressed immediately to cool the carcass and then hung by the head to allow the body cavity to drain thoroughly. In warm weather carcass-cooling can be hastened and maintained with bags of ice. For big game animals, ice bags can be placed directly into the body cavity. Unlike venison, bear are marbled with fat and can spoil quickly at temperatures above 40 degrees. Venison can survive for several days at temperatures as high as 50 degrees as long as the carcass is kept out of the sun and protected from flies. Placing the carcass into a cheesecloth game bag or applying a liberal application of black pepper to the body cavity will discourage fly contamination.
- Wash hands with soap and water before and after handling meat.
- Thoroughly clean equipment and work areas; then sanitize with a 50/50 solution of household chlorine bleach and water after processing. Wipe down counters and let them dry; soak knives for one hour.
- Dispose of the hide, brain and spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils, bones and head in a landfill or in your normal garbage pickup.

## Safety Practices When Cooking Wild Game

The Michigan Department of Community Health recommends proper food safety practices when cooking venison, as well as any other meat or poultry. Thoroughly cooking meat is important to reduce the likelihood of any bacterial disease. All meat, including venison, should be cooked until the meat is no longer pink and the juices run clear. If cooked according to the guidelines below, the likelihood of any disease transmission to individuals consuming this meat is extremely small.

Use a meat thermometer to cook meat to proper internal temperatures (minimum 165° for all types of meat from ground or fresh venison, 170° for the breast of game birds and waterfowl, and 180° for the whole bird), as this will help ensure harmful bacteria are killed and meat is not overcooked. The color of meat is an unreliable indicator of proper preparation.

For jerky, steam, boil or roast meat to 165°F using a meat thermometer prior to dehydrating. Dry at 130°-140°F until thoroughly dry. Jerky is properly dried when it cracks on bending but doesn't break.

For more information on venison field dressing, meat preparation and recipes, see the DNR publication *How to Field Dress a White-Tailed Deer*, available on the DNR website at [www.michigan.gov/deer](http://www.michigan.gov/deer).

# The Impacts of Wolves on Deer in the Upper Peninsula

## Annual Deer Mortality in the Upper Peninsula

Human-caused ~64,000 deer/yr.  hunter harvest, wounding loss and road kill	Wolves ~17,000- 29,000 deer/yr.	Mild winter ~35,000 deer
		Moderate winter ~70,000 deer
		Severe winter ~105,000

Many Michigan residents are concerned about the impacts of wolves on the Upper Peninsula deer population. The extent of those impacts is influenced by many factors. However, compared to the deer mortality caused by other sources, including other predators, the impact of wolves on the deer population is relatively small. Several studies have examined wolf kill rates, and recent estimates range from 30 to 50 deer eaten by an adult wolf each year. Wolves prey upon a variety of species, and the proportion of their diet comprised of deer changes continuously. Also, an unknown number of deer eaten by wolves may have died from other causes, such as winter conditions or vehicle collisions.

A population of 687 adult wolves (estimated Michigan wolf population in 2011) could eat between 17,000 and 29,000 deer annually. Many of these deer would have died from various other causes if wolves were not present (accidents, winter weather, diseases, etc.). Between 5,000 and 8,000 deer-vehicle crashes are reported annually in the U.P., and even more deer are killed in crashes that are not reported. A severe winter can kill 30 percent (or more) of the deer population. There are about 270,000 deer in the U.P., and hunters killed about 42,000 deer in 2010.

Wolves and deer evolved together, and deer possess physical and behavioral adaptations for avoiding wolf predation.

### Wolf-Dog Conflicts

Wolves, like most members of the wild canid family, are territorial. Wolves will defend their territories and may attack other wolves, coyotes and domestic dogs that are in their territory. Most wolf-dog conflicts occur during the bear training and hunting seasons, which overlaps with the time wolf pups are using homesites. Wolf pups remain at these homesites until they are ready to travel with the adults -- usually in early fall.

Dogs used for hunting bear are at risk of being attacked by wolves because they: (1) traverse large areas, which increases their chance of coming near or encountering a homesite; (2) are released at bear bait sites that also may be used by wolves; (3) bark while tracking, which may be viewed as a territorial challenge by wolves; and (4) are some distance from the hunters and therefore not protected by the presence of humans.

### Avoiding Potential Problems

To minimize the conflict between wolves and dogs it is best to avoid areas of recent wolf activity. Wolves will concentrate much of their activity around the den and homesites. These sites often are not used from year to year and can change throughout the summer. Homesites usually are forest openings or edge areas and often are near water. They can be identified by the concentration of wolf tracks, droppings and matted vegetation. It is best to do some scouting beforehand and look for wolf sign before releasing your hounds. Be especially vigilant when starting dogs from a bear bait site, and make sure wolves have not been using the bait. If wolf sign, and particularly the sign of wolf pups is evident, move to another area before releasing your dogs.

### What You Can Do

1. Report all suspected wolf-dog conflicts to the DNR immediately to allow a timely investigation. This will provide everyone with an accurate and up-to-date map.
2. Become familiar with coyote and dog tracks, so they can be correctly distinguished from wolf tracks.
3. Add bells or beepers to dog collars, which some hunters have reported can reduce wolf attacks.

For information on hunting dog conflicts with wolves, contact the Marquette Operations Service Center at 906-228-6561.

To report a dog depredation, call the Report All Poaching hotline: 800-292-7800.

Hunters should learn the difference between the gray wolf and the coyote.



**GRAY WOLF** (*Canis lupus*)  
Height: 30" average — Length: 4-1/2 to 6-1/2 feet — Weight: 50-100 lbs.



4.5"

---



**COYOTE** (*Canis latrans*)  
Height: 18" maximum — Length: 3 feet — Weight: 25-45 lbs.



2.5"

## Help Feed the Hungry In Your Community



Join forces with Michigan hunters to fight hunger. Put meat on the table for local families in need by donating venison, or tell your license dealer you want to make a tax-deductible donation when buying your hunting license.

[www.sportsmenagainsthunger.org](http://www.sportsmenagainsthunger.org)



## Introduce Her to the Outdoors!

Want your wife, sister, daughter or friend to join you on your next adventure in Michigan's great outdoors? The DNR's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman can teach her the skills she needs to start enjoying:

- hunting • shooting sports
- fishing • kayaking
- many other outdoor activities



[www.michigan.gov/bow](http://www.michigan.gov/bow)

## Hunter Education Promotes Our Wildlife Heritage

Michigan has a long, rich tradition of hunting. In Michigan, hunting contributes to wildlife management and conservation, provides a positive family experience and increased recreational opportunity, and is good for the economy.



Safe hunting begins with hunter education, and Michigan's hunter education program has had a dramatic impact on reducing hunting incidents in our state. According to the International Hunter Education Association, young hunters, when accompanied by responsible adults or mentors who have been a part of the

youngster's education, are some of the safest individuals afield.

Hunter education courses teach new hunters responsibility, ethics, firearm safety, wildlife conservation and wildlife identification, game care, survival and first aid. In addition to safety, hunter education courses stress ethics, and the instructors work diligently to plant the seeds of sportsmanship in each student. Most courses are offered year-round throughout the state, though most occur during August, September and October. The typical course consists of two sessions with a total class time of 10 to 12 hours.

Students also can use the Internet to complete a part of their hunter education course. The online course can be found on the DNR's hunter education website at [www.michigan.gov/huntereducation](http://www.michigan.gov/huntereducation).

The DNR is striving to recruit the most qualified instructors available and provide them with the best materials and training necessary to conduct hunter education courses throughout the state. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer instructor, please write to: Hunter Education Program, Law Enforcement

Division, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30031, Lansing, MI 48909, or call 517-335-3418. You also can visit our hunter education web page at [www.michigan.gov/huntereducation](http://www.michigan.gov/huntereducation).



If our young people can learn to be responsible hunters, negative public attitudes toward hunting that grew from past mistakes may change, and private lands now open to hunting may remain open. It is the careful and courteous hunter who is helping preserve our hunting heritage for future generations.

### Tips for asking permission to hunt on private land:

1. State law requires you obtain written or verbal permission from the landowner. Only the landowner can give hunting permission.
2. Obtain permission to hunt several farms. This assures you of a place to hunt if others are using the property or the landowner is not home.
3. Always obtain permission well in advance of the time you plan to hunt. Plan your visit early in the evening when the landowner, especially if a farmer, is likely to be home. If you will scout the area before hunting season, also request permission for that time.
4. Ask for permission by yourself or with one other person; do not take your hunting party up to the door. When approaching the landowner or family for permission, NEVER carry your gun and keep any dogs in your vehicle.
5. If you cannot visit the landowner, write an appropriate and friendly letter. Do not stick a note on the door. Your letter may request a date/time to talk in person, or you can make arrangements by mail or telephone. Do so at the landowner's preference.
6. Be prepared to provide your name and contact information and the dates and times when you would like to hunt a described portion of their land (e.g., the back 40 acres of the woods and cropland). Landowner may limit party size, ORVs or more.
7. Ask if there are crop fields or areas of the farm that should not be hunted.
8. Never shoot near farm buildings or where any people or livestock are living. Observe all safety zone areas – 450 feet from possibly inhabited structures.
9. Leave any gates you encounter the way you found them. If a gate is open, leave it open after you pass through. If a gate is closed, close it after you pass through.
10. Do not leave any trash. If you find litter already there, pick it up.
11. When the hunt is over, always thank landowners. They then will know that you have left the farm and will not worry about you being lost or stuck on their property.
12. Offer landowners a portion of your harvest off their land, such as a portion of venison once your game is cleaned (or butchered). This gesture will help your relationship with the landowner. It also may help provide others with hunting opportunities from this landowner, and it helps build a positive image of hunting.

For more information on hunting on private land, see the DNR website for details on the Hunting Access Program, the Commercial Forest Act Lands Program and other resources.

### Public Hunting Lands Maps Available Online

Looking for a place to hunt? The DNR has created a new collection of maps at [www.michigan.gov/gohunt](http://www.michigan.gov/gohunt) that identify all lands that are open to public hunting in Michigan.

Hunters can click on a particular county and see not only the state forest, wildlife management, and parks and recreation lands open to hunting that are administered by the DNR, but also all federal lands as well as private lands that are open to the public through the Hunting Access Program (HAP) or the Commercial Forest Act (CFA).

It is the responsibility of the users of these maps to be aware of all regulations relevant to their hunting activities and hunting locations. These maps show approximate boundaries of lands open to public hunting. They are designed to be used for planning purposes only, and not for legal boundary determinations. There may be small areas, which are closed to hunting, found within the shaded boundaries of areas which are shown as open to hunting. These maps are not to be used as a sole source for determining if an area is open to hunting, and not all lands depicted on these maps are open for all hunting seasons or for all game species.



Preserve *habitat and green spaces*



for *all*  
who call Michigan *home*.

Check "YES" to purchase your \$10 Michigan Recreation Passport when you renew your license plate registration, and enjoy hunting opportunities on state land and recreation areas. The Recreation Passport gets you into all state parks, recreation areas and boat launches AND Passport Perks discounts at hundreds of Michigan businesses.

Your \$10 also helps preserve forest campgrounds and trails, historic and cultural sites in state parks, and parks in your own community.

Get *your* Recreation Passport for *every* vehicle *every* year.

Where can \$10 take you?

[www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport](http://www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport)



# Mi-HUNT

## *Where Your Hunt Begins*

No matter where you are in Michigan, you can find public hunting land with Mi-HUNT.

Plan your next hunting adventure online or on your smartphone with this interactive mapping tool featuring the most up-to-date information on public lands open to hunting and trapping. Customize your search to find:

*vegetation types • land topography • aerial photography • campgrounds, trails, boat launches and parking areas • your GPS location • the route to and from your selected point • links to local hunting information*

[www.michigan.gov/mihunt](http://www.michigan.gov/mihunt)



