



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: February 11, 2008

Memorandum to the Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Elk Season Dates and License Quotas
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 4 of 2008
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

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

Discussion and Background:

This amendment changes the shooting hours for elk, establishes the dates for the 2008 elk seasons, and establishes the elk license quotas for the elk seasons.

The hunting hours for elk historically have been different than for other game. During elk Hunt Period 1 (early elk season) in August and September hunting hours have been from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The hunting hours for elk have been 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in elk Hunt Period 2 (December elk season) and elk Hunt Period 3 (January elk season). The Department recommends the elk hunting hours be the standard hunting hours of one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

The elk Hunt Period 1 is designed to target elk outside the core elk area before these elk move for the breeding season. The recommended dates for the 2008 early season will shift one day of hunting from August to September. The August portion is proposed to run from August 26 through August 29 with the September portion being September 12 through September 16. This change avoids hunting during the Labor Day holiday.

The recommended dates for Hunt Period 2 are December 9 through December 16.

There is no recommended change to the dates for Hunt Period 3.

The elk population objective is 800 to 900 animals in the winter herd. Preliminary results from the 2008 winter survey indicate the present herd is above this objective. The Department is proposing an increase in the elk harvest to help reduce the elk population. The opportunity to hold a January harvest is also desired to address management issues which may remain upon the conclusion of the earlier hunts. The recommended quota of 330 elk licenses is designed to achieve a harvest of 292 elk based on past hunter success rates.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Keith J. Charters, Chair • Mary Brown • Hurley J. Coleman, Jr. • Darnell Earley • John Madigan • J. R. Richardson • Frank Wheatlake

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The recommendation for Hunt Period 1 is 110 elk licenses; 35 any-elk licenses and 75 antlerless-only elk licenses. In 2007 with 55 licenses, 48 elk were taken during Hunt Period 1.

For Hunt Period 2, the recommendation is 220 licenses; 75 any-elk licenses and 145 antlerless-only elk licenses. This quota is designed to increase the harvest pressure on elk in Units A and D while maintaining elk numbers in Units B, C, and E. It is anticipated that approximately one-third of the harvest will occur in Unit X. In 2007, a total of 113 licenses were available for the December hunt, resulting in a harvest of 102 elk.

The recommended maximum quota for Hunt Period 3 is 50. The Director, in consultation with and concurrence of the Chair or Vice Chair of the Natural Resources Commission, may determine the number and type of licenses available and the elk management units open for Hunt Period 3. Elk Hunt Period 3 was not used in January 2008.

Recommendation:

This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item appeared on the Department's February 25, 2008, calendar and may be eligible for approval in April, 2008.

Douglas A. Reeves, Acting Chief
Wildlife Division

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

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation

Rodney Stokes, Acting Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Arminda S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy

Dennis Fedewa
Chief Deputy

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

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 4 of 2008

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

2.5 Hunting hours, exceptions; prohibited activities.

Sec. 2.5. (1) Except for the trapping of animals and as otherwise specified in this section, the hunting hours shall substantially conform to one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset and shall be those starting times and ending times published in the Michigan hunting and trapping guide or in the respective state hunting guide for that animal.

(2) In addition to the daylight hunting hours specified in subsection (1) and during those dates specified for the use of artificial lights in sections 2.4 and 3.605, a person traveling afoot at night and in possession of only a bow and arrow, a rimfire firearm .22 caliber or smaller or shotgun with loads other than buckshot, slug or cut shell may take within their specified open seasons raccoon, opossum, and fox with the aid of dogs; and fox and coyote, during the season open to the taking of fox, with the aid of a game or predator call. Subject to section 43510, subsections (2) and (3), of Part 435, as amended, hunting and fishing licensing, MCL 324.43510, a person hunting these species during the nighttime hunting hours shall not possess a loaded firearm or bow with a nocked arrow except when one or more of the following conditions apply:

- (a) The person is following dogs and is at the point of kill for taking a treed raccoon during the open season for taking raccoon by hunting.
- (b) The person is following dogs and is at the point of kill for taking opossum during the open season for taking opossum by hunting.
- (c) The person is taking coyote or fox with the aid of a game or predator call during the open season for taking fox by hunting.

(3) Except for woodcock, crow and mourning doves, the hunting and hawking hours for all waterfowl and migratory birds shall be as listed in the state waterfowl hunting guide. The hunting hours for woodcock shall substantially conform to sunrise to sunset and shall be as published in the Michigan hunting and trapping guide. The hunting hours for crow shall be as specified in subsection (1). The hunting hours for mourning doves shall substantially conform to one-half hour before sunrise to sunset and shall be as published in the Michigan hunting and trapping guide or supplement to the Michigan hunting and trapping guide.

(4) The hunting hours for wild turkey during the spring season shall substantially conform to one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour before sunset, and shall be those starting times and ending times published in the state hunting guide for wild turkey.

~~(5) The hunting hours for elk shall be 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in August and September. The hunting hours for elk shall be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in December and the following January.~~

~~(6)~~ (5) Subject to section 43510, subsections (2) and (3), of Part 435, as amended, hunting and fishing licensing, MCL 324.43510, except during the hunting hours specified in this section and as otherwise provided by subsection (2), a person shall not possess afield a firearm unless it is unloaded in the barrel, or a bow and arrow unless all arrows are placed in a quiver. A person may, to comply with section 4.1(2), kill a down and mortally wounded deer, bear, or elk using an otherwise legal means and may possess a loaded firearm or bow with nocked arrow only at the time and at the point of kill. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, a person hunting under the authority of a wild turkey license during the spring wild turkey season may load and carry a loaded firearm afield while going to their hunting stand up to one hour prior to the spring wild turkey hunting hours.

3.1 Elk open season, hunt periods; season limit.

Sec. 3.1. (1) The open season for taking elk shall be those days as specified below for the following hunt periods:

Hunt Period	Open Season
1	August 25 26 to August 29 and September 15 12 to September 18 16 , in elk management unit "L."
2	December 11 9 to December 18 16 , in elk management units "A," "B," "C," "D," "E," and "X."
3	A total of five days beginning on the Wednesday closest to January 15 for four days thereafter, only in elk management unit(s) where additional harvest is deemed necessary to meet elk management objectives.

(2) The season limit shall be one elk per license.

3.8 Elk license quota, hunters restricted to assigned management unit, exception.

Sec. 3.8. (1) The license quotas for elk hunt period 1, as specified in Section 3.1(1), shall be:

(a) Elk management unit L, ~~15~~ **35** any elk licenses and ~~40~~ **75** antlerless elk licenses.

(2) The license quotas for elk hunt period 2, as specified in Section, 3.1(1) shall be:

(a) Elk management unit A, ~~5~~ **20** any elk licenses and ~~13~~ **45** antlerless elk licenses.

(b) Elk management unit B, ~~19~~ **15** any elk licenses and ~~19~~ **20** antlerless elk licenses.

(c) Elk management unit C, ~~5~~ **5** any elk licenses and ~~10~~ **10** antlerless elk licenses.

(d) Elk management unit D, ~~10~~ **30** any elk licenses and ~~25~~ **60** antlerless elk licenses.

(e) Elk management unit E, ~~2~~ **5** any elk licenses and ~~5~~ **10** antlerless elk licenses.

(3) The license quota for elk hunt period 3, as specified in Section 3.1(1), shall be no more than ~~40~~ **50**. The director, in consultation with and concurrence of the chair or vice chair of the natural resources commission, may determine the number and type of license available and the elk management units, as described in chapter XII, open during this season.

(4) An elk hunter shall hunt in their assigned season and elk management unit except elk hunters assigned to hunt in elk management units A, B, C, D, or E may hunt in elk management unit X.

Issued this 10th day of April, 2008.

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

Keith J. Charters, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director