



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: March 8, 2010
RESUBMITTED: April 12, 2010

Memorandum to the Natural Resources Commission

SUBJECT: 2010 Fall Wild Turkey Season Dates and License Quotas
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 8 of 2010

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:

The fall wild turkey season is designed to stabilize or reduce wild turkey numbers in the designated wild turkey management units to meet the local goals recommended by Wildlife Management Unit Supervisors. These goals incorporate the social and biological carrying capacity within these turkey management units. License quotas are developed to harvest the desired number of turkeys to meet the management goal. A total of 52,550 licenses will be made available and approximately 42,161 square miles of area will be open to fall turkey hunting. A total of 5,850 general licenses will be obtainable through a lottery in the following six management units: G, GB, GC, L, M, and W.

Unit HA is being proposed to include lands previously noted as HA and HB. This expanded unit HA will have a private land quota of 1,700, with the private land licenses being available initially through an application. Newly created fall hunt unit YY encompasses only private lands in southern Michigan and Beaver Island. Licenses for this unit may be purchased over the counter (no required application) when leftover fall turkey licenses are made available for purchase. YY licenses will be sold until the 45,000 private land only license quota is achieved for the unit.

In the Upper Peninsula (UP), fall hunt unit M boundaries have been expanded and simplified to include all of the UP. This will increase flexibility and opportunity for UP hunters.

Fall turkey hunting opportunities in the state have been underutilized in the past. In an effort to expand hunting opportunity and increase interest, some hunters, landowners, and biologists have suggested opening the fall season earlier. Beginning the fall turkey season on September 15, rather than in early October, will increase the number of days available to hunt wild turkeys.

Applicants for the limited-quota hunt units may choose one hunt unit on their application. Each successful applicant may purchase one license for their application hunt unit. After the lottery drawing, if licenses are still available, unsuccessful applicants may purchase one remaining license or a license for hunt unit YY for one week on a first-come, first-served basis. After this one-week period, any remaining licenses will be made available to all hunters on a first-come, first-served basis. At this time and for the remainder of the fall turkey hunting season, a person may purchase one license per day for open hunt units until the quota is reached for each unit. Based on the satisfaction of Michigan turkey hunters and the desire to maintain stability, these regulations are proposed to remain constant for a minimum of three years.

A technical wording change is also proposed to Section 3.308 to clarify that applicants may only apply once per calendar year for both the fall and spring turkey hunts and to remove unnecessary information.

Recommendation:

This order was submitted for information on April 8, 2010, at the Natural Resources Commission Meeting. This item appeared on the Department's April 2010 calendar and may be eligible for approval on May 6, 2010.

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Recreation Division

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest Management Division

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Arminda S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy Director

Frank Ruswick
Stewardship Deputy Director

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. 8 of 2010

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 and Environment ordered that effective May 7, 2010, the following sections of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

3.300b Wild Turkey population, fall harvest quotas.

Sec. 3.300b (1) The quotas for general licenses valid on all land within the listed unit for the fall wild turkey hunt seasons defined in section 3.303, shall be as follows:

FALL WILD TURKEY HUNT UNITS AND QUOTAS

General Licenses (Valid on public and private land)

OPEN UNIT	LICENSE QUOTA
A	0
D	0
E	0
G	200
GB	250
GC	200
H	0
HA	0
HB	0
J	0
L	1,000
M	4,000
Q	0
T	0
W	200
A	0

(2) The quotas for private land only licenses which are not valid on county, state, or federal lands, except that they may be used to hunt Fort Custer military lands with permission for the listed unit, for the fall wild turkey hunt seasons defined in section 3.303, shall be as follows:

PRIVATE LAND ONLY LICENSES

OPEN UNIT	LICENSE QUOTA
A	0
D	0
E	0
G	0

PRIVATE LAND ONLY LICENSES

OPEN UNIT	LICENSE QUOTA
GB	0
GC	0
H	0
HA	1,700
HB	0
J	0
L	0
M	0
Q	0
T	0
W	0
YY	45,000

Licenses for unit YY may be purchased over-the-counter (no required application) at the same time leftover licenses are made available for purchase.

(3) Each successful applicant may purchase the license for which they were selected. Unsuccessful applicants may purchase one leftover license or a license for hunt unit YY the first week leftover licenses are available for purchase. After this one-week period, any hunter may purchase one remaining license per day until the quota is met for each hunt unit.

(4) The wildlife division chief may recommend to the director the need for any appropriate changes in quotas based on experience with population densities, hunter satisfaction levels, hunter application rates, or hunter survey results. The director, in consultation with the natural resources commission, may make changes in quotas in a turkey management unit to address this new information.

3.303 Wild turkey, fall management units open season.

Sec. 3.303 The open season for taking wild turkey in the fall wild turkey management units described in chapter XII shall start no earlier than September 15 and shall close no later than November 14.

3.308 Wild turkey licenses, applications, availability; partner application provided; application deadline; unlawful act.

Sec. 3.308 (1) Applications for turkey licenses will be available one month prior to the application deadline. Only a person who will be 10 years of age or older during a hunt period for taking wild turkey, may make application for that hunt period.

(2) The nonrefundable application fee for a wild turkey license is \$4.00.

(3) An option to apply with one partner will be provided.

(4) Applications must be made on or before February 1 of the calendar year for which the applicant desires a spring wild turkey license.

(5) Applications must be made on or before August 1 of the calendar year for which the applicant desires a fall wild turkey license.

(6) It shall be unlawful for any individual to apply more than once per calendar year for a Michigan spring wild turkey hunting license.

(7) It shall be unlawful for any individual to apply more than once per calendar year for a Michigan fall wild turkey hunting license.

12.651 Wild turkey management unit yy defined.

Sec. 12.651 Wild turkey management unit YY means all of Allegan, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Midland, Montcalm, Muskegon, Oakland, Ottawa, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Tuscola, Van Buren, and Washtenaw counties and Beaver Island in Charlevoix county.

12.654 "Fall wild turkey management unit M" defined.

Sec. 12.654. "Fall wild turkey management unit M" means all of Michigan's upper peninsula.

12.661a "Fall wild turkey management unit HA" defined.

Sec. 12.661a "Fall wild turkey management unit HA" means all of Mecosta, Oceana, and Newaygo counties.

Issued this 6th day of May, 2010.

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

