



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: April 12, 2010
RESUBMITTED: May 10, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Deer Regulations – Statewide Antlerless and DMU 487 Antler Points
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 10 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:

This amendment establishes the open/closed status for antlerless deer license availability for each Deer Management Unit (DMU), establishes an antler point restriction for DMU 487, provides a recommended increase in the length of the September youth firearm deer season by adding four days of antlerless deer hunting in DMU 486 in southern Michigan, and authorizes issuance of managed deer hunting permits to allow for increased harvest of antlerless deer when needed on the Gladwin Field Trial Area.

Deer Management Units are the regulatory units for issuing antlerless deer licenses. The availability status of public land antlerless deer licenses and private land antlerless deer licenses must be determined prior to establishing the antlerless deer license quotas. The status of each DMU for both public land and private land antlerless deer licenses will be published in the 2010 Antlerless Deer Hunting Guide. This provides hunters with the information needed to make decisions regarding antlerless deer hunting opportunities. Antlerless deer license quotas recommendations will be presented to the Natural Resources Commission at the June meeting.

There are 65 DMUs recommended to be open for public land antlerless deer licenses, all of which would also be open for private land licenses, and 16 DMUs to be open only for private land licenses. A total of 6 DMUs in the Upper Peninsula, which were open for private land antlerless licenses last year, are recommended to be closed this year, including 017 (Sault Ste. Marie), 031 (Nissula), 121 (Bay De Noc), 127 (Ironwood), 252 (Rock), and 349 (Engadine).

Within the Northern Lower Peninsula, Kalkaska County (DMU 040) was open to private land antlerless licenses last year and is recommended to be closed this year, while Emmet County (DMU 024) was closed last year and is recommended to be open this year. Two units that were open to public land antlerless licenses last year are recommended to be closed this year, including DMU 121 (Bay De Noc) and DMU 025 (Genesee).

A self-sustained infection of bovine tuberculosis (TB) continues to persist within deer in northeast Michigan. While the long-term trend in TB prevalence still demonstrates a decline, the trend from 2005–2009 indicates no change. Establishing an antler point restriction for DMU 487 will focus harvest of antlered deer on animals at greatest risk of being TB positive. Data indicate at ages 2 years and older, males are increasingly more likely to be TB positive than females of the same age class. Furthermore, the risk of bucks being TB positive continuously increases with age, while the risk for does levels off at ages of 4 years and up.

There is a desire to expand or enhance opportunities for recruitment and retention of youth hunters through modifications to the youth firearm deer season. Additional days of youth firearm hunting for antlerless deer in DMU 486 will increase the number of days that mentors may take youth afield in southern Michigan. This would provide continuous hunting opportunities for youth hunters between the early antlerless season and the existing youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting weekend days in the region of the state experiencing the greatest challenges to youth hunter recruitment and retention.

The Gladwin Field Trial Area (GFTA) is managed primarily to provide high quality early successional habitat for forest game bird species and is recognized as a premier dog field trial area in the nation. At times, additional antlerless licenses specifically for the GFTA are needed above the established overall public land antlerless license quota for DMU 026 (Gladwin County). It is sometimes necessary to concentrate antlerless harvest on the GFTA to address the impacts of deer browsing on forest regeneration. Section 5.81 authorizes issuance of permits for public lands requiring an access permit and open to deer hunting by lottery. It is recommended that the management unit supervisor or their representative be authorized to designate days for which managed deer hunting permits may be issued to persons during the deer hunting season. These permits will be issued by a lottery handled at the Gladwin Field Office.

Sections 3.101e of the Wildlife Conservation Order also contain provisions that allow for the use of crossbow and, due to the sunset provision of March 2012 for the use of crossbow, these proposed deer regulations must be included in both the current (sunsetting) order section, and the section to which it may revert in the future.

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Recommendation:

This order was submitted for information on May 6, 2010 at the Natural Resources Commission Meeting. This item appeared on the Department's April 2010 calendar and may be eligible for approval on June 3, 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

Armindia S. Koch, Deputy Director
Resource Management

Frank Ruswick, Deputy Director
Stewardship

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. 10 of 2010

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment by sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective June 4, 2010, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

3.101b Deer hunting in deer management unit 487, antler restriction.

Sec. 3.101b Notwithstanding any other provisions of this order, in that area described as deer management unit 487 in section 12.487, a person shall not take an antlered deer unless the deer has at least 1 antler with 3 or more antler points each 1 or more inches in length.

3.101c Deer hunting in deer management unit 117 antler restriction.

Sec. 3.101c Notwithstanding any other provisions of this order, in deer management unit 117 a person shall not take an antlered deer unless the deer has at least 1 antler with 2 or more antler points each 1 or more inches in length.

****Section 3.101e takes effect on March 6, 2009, and will remain in effect until March 6, 2012****

3.101e Youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days, season established, limits defined, adult requirements, hunting hours.

Sec. 3.101e (1)The youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days shall be a 2-day hunt starting the fourth Saturday in September.

(2) The youth early antlerless firearm hunting days shall be a 4-day hunt starting on the Tuesday prior to the fourth Saturday in September within dmU 486.

(3) Individuals wishing to participate in the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days and the youth early antlerless firearm hunting days shall be eligible if one of the following applies:

(a) A youth 10 through 16 years of age.

(b) A veteran with 100 percent disability as defined by the United States department of veterans affairs. Documentation from the United States department of veteran's affairs indicating 100 percent disability shall be in the possession of a veteran participating in this hunt.

(c) A resident rated by the United States department of veterans affairs as individually unemployable may participate in the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days. Documentation from the United States department of veteran's affairs indicating this rating shall be in the possession of a veteran participating in this hunt.

(4) The following rules shall apply to a person taking deer on the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days and the youth early antlerless firearm hunting days.

(a) A person participating in youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days may take one deer provided they possess a firearm or combination deer hunting license or an antlerless deer hunting license valid for the unit in which they are hunting. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this order, during the youth firearm deer hunting days a firearm or combination deer hunting license is valid for either an antlered or an antlerless deer.

(b) A person participating in the youth early antlerless firearm hunting days take one antlerless deer for each antlerless deer hunting license they possess valid for the unit in which they are hunting.

(c) A parent or legal guardian shall not allow a youth hunter to go afield to hunt deer unless the youth hunter is accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age or older. Subject to section 43510, subsections (2) and (3), of Part 435, as amended, hunting and fishing licensing, MCL 324.43510, an adult accompanying a youth firearm deer hunter shall not possess or carry a firearm, a crossbow, or bow and arrow, except a veteran with 100 percent disability may possess a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow if hunting under the authority of section 3.101e(2)(b).

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

(e) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, all regulations of state law and this order regarding the taking, possession, transportation, and storage of deer during a firearm deer season shall apply to persons participating in youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days and the youth early antlerless firearm hunting days.

****Section 3.101e is superseded by Am. 2 of 2009 from March 6, 2009, through March 6, 2012****

3.101e Youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days, season established, limits defined, adult requirements, hunting hours.

Sec. 3.101e (1)The youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days shall be a 2-day hunt starting the fourth Saturday in September.

(2) The youth early antlerless firearm hunting days shall be a 4-day hunt starting on the Tuesday prior to the fourth Saturday in September within dmu 486.

(3) Individuals wishing to participate in the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days and the youth early antlerless firearm hunting days shall be eligible if one of the following applies:

(a) A youth 10 through 16 years of age.

(b) A veteran with 100 percent disability as defined by the United States department of veterans affairs may participate in the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days. Documentation from the United States department of veteran's affairs indicating 100 percent disability shall be in the possession of a veteran participating in this hunt.

(c) A resident rated by the United States department of veterans affairs as individually unemployable may participate in the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days. Documentation from the United States department of veteran's affairs indicating this rating shall be in the possession of a veteran participating in this hunt.

(4) The following rules shall apply to a person taking deer on the youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting and the youth early antlerless firearm hunting days:

(a) A person participating in youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days may take one deer provided they possess a firearm or combination deer hunting license or an antlerless deer hunting license valid for the unit in which they are hunting. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this order, during the youth firearm deer hunting days a firearm or combination deer hunting license is valid for either an antlered or an antlerless deer.

(b) A person participating in the youth early antlerless firearm deer hunting days may take one antlerless deer for each antlerless deer hunting license they possess, valid for the unit in which they are hunting.

(c) A parent or legal guardian shall not allow a youth hunter to go afield to hunt deer unless the youth hunter is accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age or older. Subject to section 43510, subsections (2) and (3), of Part 435, as amended, hunting and fishing licensing, MCL 324.43510, an adult accompanying a youth firearm deer hunter shall not possess or carry a firearm, or bow and arrow, except a veteran with 100 percent disability may possess a firearm, or bow and arrow if hunting under the authority of section 3.101e(2)(b).

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

(e) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, all regulations of state law and this order regarding the taking, possession, transportation, and storage of deer during a firearm deer season shall apply to persons participating in youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunting days and the youth early antlerless firearm hunting days.

3.105a Deer management units open to antlerless license quotas.

Sec. 3.105a (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section the status of each deer management unit for antlerless deer licenses shall be as follows:

DMU Number	DMU Name	Private Land License	Public Land License
001	Alcona County	Open	Open
003	Allegan County	Open	Open
004	Alpena County	Open	Open
005	Antrim County	Open	Closed
006	Arenac County	Open	Open
007	Big Bay Unit	Closed	Closed
008	Barry County	Open	Open
009	Bay County	Open	Open
010	Benzie County	Open	Closed
011	Berrien County	Open	Open
012	Branch County	Open	Open
013	Calhoun County	Open	Open
014	Cass County	Open	Open
015	Charlevoix County	Open	Closed
016	Cheboygan County	Closed	Closed
017	Sault Ste. Marie Unit	Closed	Closed
018	Clare County	Open	Open
019	Clinton County	Open	Open
020	Crawford County	Open	Open
021	Manistique Unit	Closed	Closed
022	Crystal Falls Unit	Open	Open
023	Eaton County	Open	Open
024	Emmet County	Open	Closed
025	Genesee County	Open	Closed
026	Gladwin County	Open	Open
027	Watersmeet Unit	Closed	Closed
028	Grand Traverse County	Open	Closed
029	Gratiot County	Open	Open
030	Hillsdale County	Open	Open
031	Nissula Unit	Closed	Closed
032	Huron County	Open	Open

033	Ingham County	Open	Open
034	Ionia County	Open	Open
035	Iosco County	Open	Open
036	Amasa/Michigamme Unit	Closed	Closed
037	Isabella County	Open	Open
038	Jackson County	Open	Open
039	Kalamazoo County	Open	Open
040	Kalkaska County	Closed	Closed
041	Kent County	Open	Open
042	Keweenaw Unit	Closed	Closed
043	Lake County	Open	Closed
044	Lapeer County	Open	Open
045	Leelanau County	Open	Closed
046	Lenawee County	Open	Open
047	Livingston County	Open	Open
048	Newberry Unit	Closed	Closed
050	Macomb County	Open	Open
051	Manistee County	Open	Closed
053	Mason County	Open	Closed
054	Mecosta County	Open	Open
055	Menominee Unit	Open	Open
056	Midland County	Open	Open
057	Missaukee County	Open	Closed
058	Monroe County	Open	Open
059	Montcalm County	Open	Open
060	Montmorency County	Open	Open
061	Muskegon County	Open	Open
063	Oakland County	Open	Open
064	Oceana County	Open	Open
065	Ogemaw County	Open	Open
066	Ontonagon County	Closed	Closed
067	Osceola County	Open	Closed
068	Oscoda County	Open	Open
069	Otsego County	Closed	Closed
070	Ottawa County	Open	Open
071	Presque Isle County	Open	Open

072	Roscommon County	Open	Open
073	Saginaw County	Open	Open
074	St. Clair County	Open	Open
075	St. Joseph County	Open	Open
076	Sanilac County	Open	Open
078	Shiawassee County	Open	Open
079	Tuscola County	Open	Open
080	Van Buren County	Open	Open
081	Washtenaw County	Open	Open
082	Wayne County	Open	Open
083	Wexford County	Open	Closed
115	Beaver Island	Open	Open
117	Drummond Island	Open	Open
121	Bay De Noc	Closed	Closed
122	Norway Unit	Open	Open
127	Ironwood Unit	Closed	Closed
131	Twin Lakes unit	Closed	Closed
135	Tawas Unit	Open	Open
145	North Manitou Island	Closed	Open
149	Round/Bois Blanc Island	Closed	Closed
152	Gwinn Unit	Closed	Closed
155	Gladstone Unit	Open	Open
162	South Newaygo Unit	Open	Open
173	Shiawassee Flats	Open	Open
174	St. Clair Flats	Open	Open
245	South Fox Island	Open	Open
249	Trout Lake Unit	Closed	Closed
252	Rock Unit	Closed	Closed
255	LaBranche Unit	Open	Open
262	North Newaygo Unit	Open	Closed
273	Shiawassee Unit	Open	Open
349	Engadine Unit	Closed	Closed
452	Core Area	Open	Open
486	SLP Multi-County Unit	Open	Closed
487	NLP Multi-County Unit	Open	Closed

8.15 Gladwin field dog trial area, hunting and trapping restrictions.

Sec. 8.15 On the Gladwin field dog trial area, as described in section 15.2, no person shall take an animal except as specified in writing by the wildlife management supervisor or their representative, except:

(1) Deer may be taken during their open seasons on or after November 15 of each year and a valid deer license shall constitute written authorization to take deer.

(2) Beaver and otter may be trapped from November 15 to March 15 and a valid furharvester license shall constitute written authorization to take beaver and otter.

(3) On days designated by the management unit supervisor or their representative, managed deer hunting permits as authorized in section 5.81, may be issued to persons during the deer hunting season. Managed deer hunting permits shall serve as an access permit to the Gladwin field trial area for the purpose of antlerless deer hunting. Notwithstanding any other provision of this order, holders of managed deer hunting permits may take antlered deer on the Gladwin field trial area.

Issued this 3rd day of June, 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