



STATE OF MICHIGAN



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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GOVERNOR

LANSING

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DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: May 11, 2009  
RESUBMITTED: June 8, 2009

<b><u>A P P R O V E</u></b>
_____, 20____
MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
(ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION)

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Antlerless Deer License Quotas  
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 13 of 2009

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 public land antlerless deer license quota and private land antlerless deer license quota for each deer management unit (DMU) in the state, increases the purchase limit for private land antlerless deer license in six DMUs, and eliminates the purchase limit for private land antlerless deer licenses in Kent County.

The deer harvest for 2006 (450,000), 2007 (485,000), and the preliminary harvest data for the 2008 deer season (>500,000) indicate an increasing statewide deer herd. The preliminary 2008 harvest data indicates hunters took more antlerless deer than antlered deer. This is an indication hunters saw more deer and were comfortable in taking antlerless deer, which is often seen with an increasing deer herd. Additional information provided by hunters and landowners supports an increasing trend in the Lower Peninsula deer herd. An exception to this trend is the "Tip of the Mitt" in the Northern Lower Peninsula (NLP). The winter of 2008-2009 has had a negative impact on the deer herd in this area and in the Upper Peninsula (UP) deer herd.

The annual reported vehicle-deer accidents by the Michigan State Police provide an independent indicator of potential deer herd changes. In 2008, the number of vehicle-deer accidents statewide (61,010) was relatively constant (1.5%) to the 2007 number (61,907) and the number reported in 2006 (60,875). Vehicle deer accidents in the Upper Peninsula were down 10% (5,054 vs. 5,622) from 2008. There was virtually no change in reported vehicle deer accidents (16,329 vs. 16,310) in the Northern Lower Peninsula and less than a one percent decrease (39,627 vs. 39,975) in the Southern Lower Peninsula

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

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The recommended antlerless deer license quotas for 2009 provide a statewide total of 68,300 public land antlerless deer licenses, an increase from 2008, when 66,375 were offered. The private land antlerless deer license quota recommendation of 659,800 includes 70,000 licenses for the new multi-county DMUs 486 in the Southern Lower Peninsula (SLP) and 487 in the Northeast Lower Peninsula. Not including these 70,000 licenses, the 2009 recommendation of 589,800 is a slight increase from the 573,200 private land antlerless deer licenses available in 2008, and an increase of 8% from 2007.

### Upper Peninsula

In the UP, the recommendation is for 7,000 public land and 27,000 private land antlerless deer licenses to be available. In 2008, there were 8,000 public land and 31,000 private land antlerless deer licenses available. This decrease in antlerless licenses is the result of the severe winters of 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. The winter of 2008-2009 in the UP is expected to have a negative impact on fawn recruitment this spring.

Twelve DMUs in the UP will not have antlerless licenses available in 2009. However, archery hunters will be able to harvest an antlerless deer using a bow and arrow license or a combination license during the archery season. Five DMUs in the UP will have only private land antlerless licenses available and seven DMUs will have both private land and public land antlerless licenses available. The areas with antlerless licenses have agricultural crop damage, damage to forest regeneration, and/or numerous vehicle-deer accidents. Antlerless deer hunting license availability in the UP has been designed to target the deer herd in specific DMUs. In DMUs with no antlerless licenses, the goal is to allow an increase in the population. In DMUs with only private land antlerless licenses, the goal is to permit an increase in the population on public land while maintaining or reducing deer on private land. In DMUs with both public and private land antlerless licenses, the goal is to maintain or reduce deer populations to better balance deer numbers with habitat.

### Northern Lower Peninsula

In the NLP, the recommendation is for 25,600 public land and 140,300 private land antlerless deer licenses to be available. In 2008, there were 22,000 public land and 135,400 private land antlerless deer licenses available. This increase is the result of splitting Newaygo Co into two different DMUs and an increase in the quotas in Iosco County.

Four of the 32 DMUs in the NLP will have no antlerless licenses available. However, archery hunters will be able to harvest an antlerless deer using a bow and arrow license or a combination license during the archery season. Thirteen DMUs will not have public land antlerless licenses available. Many of the DMUs in the northwest are at goal and antlerless license availability in this area is designed to maintain the deer population. The remaining eighteen DMUs will offer both public land and private land antlerless deer licenses. Antlerless license availability in the northeast has been designed to maintain or reduce the deer population.

### Southern Lower Peninsula (SLP)

In the SLP the recommendation is for 35,700 public land and 423,000 private land antlerless deer licenses to be available. In 2008, there were 35,900 public land and 406,800 private land antlerless deer licenses available.

The deer herd in the SLP has remained higher than desired in recent years. Liberal antlerless licenses have been available to help reduce the deer population. Vehicle-deer accidents and crop depredation concerns remain high in many counties in the SLP. The antlerless license quotas are designed to reduce the current deer population in the SLP.

### Multi-county DMUs

Two new multi-county DMUs have been established in the Lower Peninsula. Deer Management Unit 486, covering all but six DMUs in the SLP, is recommended to have a private land antlerless deer license quota of 60,000. Deer Management Unit 487, covering eight DMUs in the NLP, is recommended to have a private land antlerless deer license quota of 10,000. No public land antlerless deer licenses will be issued for DMU 486 or DMU 487.

Establishing a quota for private land antlerless deer licenses in these multi-county DMUs provides hunters with an option. Hunters will have the choice of purchasing private land antlerless deer licenses for a specific DMU within one of the multi-county DMUs, which is valid in any DMU within the multi-county DMU, or purchasing private land antlerless deer licenses for DMU 486 or DMU 487.

### Antlerless Deer License Purchase Limit

For six counties (Muskegon, Newaygo, Mecosta, Isabella, Midland, and Bay) divided by the zone 2/3 boundary, the limit on private land antlerless deer license purchase has been two. These six counties are included in DMU 486 as they are similar to the southern DMUs in habitat availability and deer numbers. For all DMUs within DMU 486, except these six counties, the limit of private land antlerless deer licenses is five. To be consistent throughout DMU 486, it is recommended the purchase limit for private land antlerless deer licenses for these six DMUs be five.

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Recommendation:

This order was submitted for information on June 4, 2009 at the Natural Resources Commission Meeting. This item appeared on the Department's May 26, 2009 calendar and may be eligible for approval on July 9, 2009.

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief  
Wildlife Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief  
Parks and Recreation Division

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

Gary Hagler, Chief  
Law Enforcement Division

Arminda S. Koch  
Resource Management Deputy

David Freed, Chief  
Office of Land and Facilities

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. 13 of 2009**

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective July 10, 2009, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

### **3.102 Antlerless deer license; validity; authority; types; restrictions; units.**

Sec 3.102 (1) Antlerless deer licenses are only valid in their specified deer management unit when the unit has a season open to the taking of deer. Antlerless deer licenses do not grant permission to hunt on private property without the permission of the owner. A person purchasing an antlerless deer license over the counter shall do so in person.

(2) Antlerless deer licenses shall only be valid for taking an antlerless deer.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the holder of a valid public land antlerless deer license shall only take a deer from publicly owned lands within the deer management unit specified on the antlerless deer license. Public land antlerless deer licenses shall not be valid on any privately owned lands except lands open to hunting by the general public under the provisions of Part 511, Commercial Forests, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being sections 324.51101 to 324.51120 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(4) The holder of a valid private land antlerless deer license shall only take a deer from privately owned lands within the deer management unit specified on the private land antlerless deer license. The private land antlerless deer license shall not be valid on publicly owned lands and lands open to hunting by the general public under the provisions of Part 511, Commercial Forests, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being sections 324.51101 to 324.51120 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(5) The deer management units, as defined in chapter XII, listed in section 3.105a are open to the taking of antlerless deer by public land antlerless deer license or private land antlerless deer license, or any combination.

(6) The director, in consultation with and concurrence of the chair or vice chair of the natural resources commission, may require an application to obtain an antlerless deer license or may issue antlerless deer licenses through the retail sales system on a first-come, first-served basis for use in designated deer management units.

(7) The director in consultation with and concurrence of the chair or vice chair of the natural resources commission may issue antlerless deer licenses through the retail sales system on a first-come, first-served basis for use in designated deer management units when the director determines that antlerless deer licenses remain unsold after the drawing, provided for in section 3.104, has been held or where such issuance is in the best interest of deer management. An application for the current year is not required to purchase an antlerless deer license that remains after the drawing, provided for in section 3.104, has been held.

(8) Young hunters 10 to 16 years of age on or before the 4th Saturday in September may purchase 1 private or public land antlerless deer license, over the counter, on a first-come, first-served basis, during the application period for antlerless licenses for any deer management unit with antlerless licenses available.

(9) A person shall not purchase more than 1 antlerless deer hunting license per calendar day.

(10) The season limit for private land antlerless licenses shall be 5 per person except for the following:

(a) No person shall purchase more than 2 private land antlerless licenses combined for deer management units in zone 1 and for deer management units which are entirely within zone 2.

(b) Deer management units in Alpena, Alcona, Crawford, Iosco, Kent, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties shall not be included in the season limit as defined in section 3.102(10) of this order.

**3.105 Antlerless-only license quotas.**

Sec. 3.105. (1) The director, in consultation with and concurrence of the chair or vice chair of the natural resources commission, may make appropriate minor changes to antlerless deer quotas established in 3.105(2) to meet disease control, population goal, or other management objectives.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the antlerless deer license quotas are as follows:

<b>DMU</b>	<b>DMU Name</b>	<b>Public licenses</b>	<b>Private licenses</b>	<b>Total Licenses</b>
1	Alcona County	4,000	7,000	11,000
3	Allegan County	3,000	12,000	15,000
4	Alpena County	2,000	5,000	7,000
5	Antrim County	0	5,000	5,000
6	Arenac County	700	7,600	8,300
7	Big Bay Unit	0	0	0
8	Barry County	1,800	17,000	18,800
9	Bay County	100	3,000	3,100
10	Benzie County	0	300	300
11	Berrien County	200	8,000	8,200
12	Branch County	100	12,000	12,100
13	Calhoun County	100	16,000	16,100
14	Cass County	500	8,000	8,500
15	Charlevoix County	0	3,400	3,400
16	Cheboygan County	0	0	0
17	Sault Ste. Marie Unit	0	1,000	1,000
18	Clare County	900	8,700	9,600
19	Clinton County	1,200	14,000	15,200
20	Crawford County	1,200	1,500	2,700

21	Manistique Unit	0	0	0
22	Iron Mountain Unit	1,500	5,000	6,500
23	Eaton County	100	13,000	13,100
24	Emmet County	0	0	0
25	Genesee County	0	8,500	8,500
26	Gladwin County	1,500	8,300	9,800
27	Watersmeet Unit	0	0	0
28	Grand Traverse County	0	600	600
29	Gratiot County	1,600	11,000	12,600
30	Hillsdale County	400	16,000	16,400
31	Nisula Unit	0	500	500
32	Huron County	1,000	12,000	13,000
33	Ingham County	600	11,000	11,600
34	Ionia County	1,200	15,000	16,200
35	Iosco County	1,000	7,500	8,500
36	Amasa/Michigamme Unit	0	0	0
37	Isabella County	100	11,000	11,100
38	Jackson County	1,600	20,000	21,600
39	Kalamazoo County	900	9,000	9,900
40	Kalkaska County	0	100	100
41	Kent County	1,100	18,100	19,200
42	Keweenaw Unit	0	0	0
43	Lake County	0	3,000	3,000
44	Lapeer County	2,000	15,000	17,000
45	Leelanau County	0	300	300
46	Lenawee County	400	10,000	10,400
47	Livingston County	1,400	15,000	16,400
48	Newberry Unit	0	0	0
50	Macomb County	200	3,200	3,400

51	Manistee County	0	3,400	3,400
53	Mason County	0	5,000	5,000
54	Mecosta County	200	13,800	14,000
55	Menominee Unit	3,000	10,000	13,000
56	Midland County	1,500	7,500	9,000
57	Missaukee County	0	3,200	3,200
58	Monroe County	200	1,800	2,000
59	Montcalm County	1,500	19,000	20,500
60	Montmorency County	3,700	7,800	11,500
61	Muskegon County	800	7,000	7,800
63	Oakland County	2,500	7,000	9,500
64	Oceana County	500	4,500	5,000
65	Ogemaw County	1,000	6,000	7,000
66	Ontonagon County	0	0	0
67	Osceola County	0	5,000	5,000
68	Oscoda County	3,000	4,500	7,500
69	Otsego County	0	0	0
70	Ottawa County	400	9,000	9,400
71	Presque Isle County	3,000	6,500	9,500
72	Roscommon County	0	0	0
73	Saginaw County	200	7,000	7,200
74	St. Clair County	700	9,000	9,700
75	St. Joseph County	300	8,000	8,300
76	Sanilac County	1,500	16,000	17,500
78	Shiawassee County	200	14,000	14,200
79	Tuscola County	2,700	14,000	16,700
80	Van Buren County	200	10,000	10,200
81	Washtenaw County	1,500	14,000	15,500
82	Wayne County	100	1,200	1,300

83	Wexford County	0	3,400	3,400
115	Beaver Island	200	300	500
117	Drummond Island	200	100	300
121	Bay De Noc	500	1,000	1,500
122	Norway Unit	200	2,500	2,700
127	Ironwood Unit	0	300	300
131	Twin Lakes Unit	0	0	0
135	Tawas Unit	200	600	800
145	North Manitou Island	0	0	0
149	Round/Bois Blanc Island	0	0	0
152	Gwinn Unit	0	0	0
155	Gladstone Unit	800	3,600	4,400
162	South Newaygo County	500	5,500	6,000
173	Shiawassee Flats	1,400	400	1,800
174	St. Clair Flats	400	300	700
245	South Fox Island	0	0	0
249	Trout Lake Unit	0	0	0
252	Rock Unit	0	1,000	1,000
255	LaBranche Unit	800	1,300	2,100
262	North Newaygo County	0	3,000	3,000
273	Shiawassee Unit	0	0	0
349	Engadine Unit	0	700	700
452	Core Area	2,000	9,000	11,000
486	Southern Multi-County	0	60,000	60,000
487	Northern Multi-County	0	10,000	10,000
	Total	68,300	659,800	728,100

Issued this 9th day of July, 2009.

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