JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: May 14, 2007
RESUBMITTED: June 12, 2007

APPROVED
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MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
(ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION)

Memorandum to the Natural Resources Commission

SUBJECT: Elk Season Quotas

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 elk population objective is 800 to 900 animals in the winter herd. The Department is proposing a harvest which will maintain the recent hunting pressure on the elk herd. This will assist in maintaining the present elk herd in northeast Michigan. 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 suggested quota of 168 elk licenses, with an anticipated harvest of 133 elk during the 2007 elk seasons, is the same number of licenses and anticipated harvest as in 2006.

The early elk hunt in August and September targets animals at the perimeter of the core range. The recommendation is to offer 55 elk licenses, comprised of 15 any-elk licenses and 40 antlerless-only elk licenses for the early season. In 2006 with the same number of licenses, 43 elk were taken during this hunt.

For the traditional December elk hunt, the recommendation is to offer 41 any-elk licenses and 72 antlerless-only elk licenses, totaling 113 elk licenses. This quota is designed to increase the harvest pressure on elk in units B, C, and D while maintaining elk numbers in units A and E. In 2006, a total of 113 licenses were available for the December hunt, resulting in a harvest of 105 elk.

The Wildlife Division Chief may recommend to the Director the need for a January elk hunt. In consultation with the Natural Resources Commission, the Director may issue up to 40 elk licenses, determine the types of elk licenses issued, and determine the elk management unit or units open for the January elk hunt. In January 2007, an elk hunt was held to target elk in unit B with 10 elk harvested and unit X with 23 elk harvested.

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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Recommendation:

This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item will be submitted for final action on July 12, 2007.

William E. Moritz, Chief
Wildlife Division

Alan Marble, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

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

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation 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. 14 of 2007

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 ordered that effective July 13, 2007, the following section of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

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 any elk licenses and 40 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 any elk licenses and 13 antlerless elk licenses.

(b) Elk management unit B, 19 any elk licenses and 19 antlerless elk licenses.

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

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

(e) Elk management unit E, 2 any elk licenses and 5 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. 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 12th day of July, 2007.

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