



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAM
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: June 17, 2013

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Deer Season Ground Blind Placement
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 16 of 2013
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:

Under current regulations, ground blinds for deer hunting purposes cannot be placed on public land prior to November 5 of each year. However, raised platforms or scaffolds, often called tree stands, can be placed on public lands as early as September 1.

In order to ensure more consistent dates and opportunities in the placement of ground blinds for deer hunting purposes on public lands, the Department recommends allowing for placement beginning on September 1.

Recommendation:

This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item appeared on the Department's June 2013 calendar and may be eligible for approval on August 8, 2013.

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Bill O'Neill, Chief
Forest Resources Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
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James Dexter, Chief
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William E. Moritz, Ph.D.
Natural Resources Deputy

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 16 of 2013

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 August 9, 2013, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

2.9 "Ground blind" defined; requirements to use, occupy, place, build, construct, or maintain a ground blind on publicly owned lands; use or placement of blind does not convey exclusive hunting right.

Sec. 2.9 (1) For the purposes of this section, "ground blind" means a structure, enclosure, or any material, natural or manufactured, placed on the ground to elevate or otherwise assist in concealing or disguising the user or occupant for the purpose of taking an animal except for commercially manufactured ladder stands which lean up against and require the support of a tree to maintain their upright position.

(2) A person may use, occupy, place, build, construct, or maintain a ground blind on publicly owned lands only if one of the following applies:

(a) The ground blind is constructed exclusively of dead and natural materials found on the ground in the area where the blind is constructed, except that cloth, netting, plastic or other materials may be used by the occupant of a ground blind if the cloth, netting, plastic or other materials are not fastened to the blind and are carried out by the user at the end of each day's hunt. For the purposes of this section, "fastened" means stapled, nailed, glued, or other means of permanent attachment other than tying.

(b) The ground blind is clearly a portable blind and is removed at the end of each day's hunt. Fasteners, if used to attach or anchor a portable blind, shall be removed at the end of each day's hunt and shall not consist of any item that penetrates the cambium of a tree.

(c) The ground blind is a temporary ground blind constructed of materials other than dead and down materials found on the ground in the area where the blind is constructed and which meets all of the following conditions:

(i) The blind for deer hunting purposes is not located upon publicly owned lands from the day following the last day of the open deer season to ~~November 5~~ **September 1** unless allowed by the public agency administering the land on which the blind is located. A ground blind located on publicly owned lands anytime during the period defined in this subsection shall be considered an abandoned ground blind.

(ii) The blind for bear hunting purposes is not located upon publicly owned lands from five days after bear season closes to August 10 in the Amasa, Baraga, Bergland, Carney, Gwinn, and Newberry Bear Management Units; to August 17 in the Red Oak, Baldwin, and Gladwin Bear Management Units; except successful bear hunters must remove their ground blind within 5 days of harvesting a bear. A ground blind located on publicly owned lands anytime during the period defined in this subsection shall be considered an abandoned ground blind.

(iii) The name and address of the licensed bear hunter in the Bear Management Unit where licensed, or, outside of the bear season, the person placing the ground blind, is permanently attached, etched, engraved, or painted on the ground blind.

(iv) Fasteners, if used to attach or anchor a temporary ground blind, shall be removed with the blind and shall not consist of any item that penetrates the cambium of a tree.

(3) This section shall not apply to blinds constructed and used for taking waterfowl as described in section 3.401 or structures constructed by a public agency upon lands administered by that public agency.

(4) The placement or use of a ground blind on publicly owned lands shall in no way convey exclusive hunting rights to the area surrounding that blind.

(5) A ground blind that does not meet the requirements of subsection (2) shall be an illegal ground blind. A person shall not use an illegal ground blind.

(6) Only ground blinds which meet the requirements of subsections (2)(a) or (2)(b) may be used in state game areas, state recreation areas and state parks that are located in zone 3.

Issued on this 8th day of August, 2013.

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

J. R. Richardson, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Keith Creagh
Director

