



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: September 17, 2007
RESUBMITTED: October 15, 2007

Memorandum to the Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Spring Wild Turkey Season Units, Dates and License 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 spring wild turkey season is designed to maximize hunter opportunity while maintaining a satisfactory hunting experience and sustaining a viable wild turkey population. When turkeys were a species of scarcity, traditional spring turkey hunting seasons had restrictive regulations for both private and public land in order to widely disperse hunters to provide for a quality recreational experience. As wild turkey populations have flourished, turkey hunters and private landowners have requested longer seasons with greater flexibility in areas where they can hunt. The proposed recommendations are an effort to provide additional recreational opportunity without impacting the quality of spring turkey hunting. Technical changes are recommended to season opening dates to accurately reflect a Monday opener for all hunt periods.

For the 2008 spring wild turkey season, a total of 113,890 licenses (48,890 General, 65,000 Private) will be made available through a lottery during the hunter limited hunt periods. Approximately 48,183 square miles of area will be open to wild turkey hunting.

The Southern Lower Peninsula Wild Turkey Management Unit (Unit ZZ, Hunt Number 301) quota will remain the same as the 2007 spring hunting season. This hunt provides private land hunters in southern Michigan greater pliancy and convenience during this limited entry lottery hunt for the first two weeks of the spring season.

In southern Michigan, wild turkey populations continue to expand in their ancestral range. Last year, hunt units in this region were consolidated and quotas were enlarged to provide fewer constraints to hunters. This year, it is recommended that the quota for Hunt Unit ZC in southeast Michigan be increased by 50 licenses.

In northeast Michigan, smaller Hunt Units A, AA, and B have been combined to form Hunt Unit A; Hunt Unit J has been expanded to include Bois Blanc Island; and Hunt Units E and F have been adjusted so that Mid-Forest Lodge is included with the rest of Roscommon County. Wild turkeys were released on Bois Blanc Island in the late 1990s and the island wild turkey population has increased since that time. During the past two years, island residents have requested that the island be opened to spring turkey hunting. Mid-Forest Lodge is a large recreational property in southeast Roscommon County, which for turkey hunting purposes, has historically been included in Hunt Unit E, part of the Saginaw Bay Wildlife Management Unit. During the years since that boundary was created, the wild turkey season structure has changed and the gerrymandered line between Hunt Units E and F is no longer necessary. These recommended changes will improve hunting opportunity for northern Michigan hunters.

Last year in the Upper Peninsula (UP), smaller hunt units were combined and the unit was expanded to form Hunt Unit M. This change had strong public support and provided increased flexibility for UP hunters. This year, the quota in Hunt Unit M has been reduced to better reflect application rate and hunter participation.

During the spring turkey application period, hunters may apply for a limited quota license or purchase a Guaranteed Hunt Period license (Hunt Number 234). Applicants may select a first and second hunt choice on their applications. Each successful applicant may purchase one license. The Guaranteed Hunt Period will be comparable to last year in season structure and license availability. Individuals who purchase the Guaranteed Hunt Period license during the application period will not be charged the \$4.00 application fee. After the application period, the Guaranteed Hunt Period will be available to unsuccessful applicants only. If licenses are still available after the drawing, the remaining licenses may be purchased on a first-come, first-served basis by unsuccessful applicants in the license lottery. Alternatively, unsuccessful applicants may purchase a Guaranteed Hunt Period license. Beginning one week after leftover licenses become available to unsuccessful applicants, any remaining leftover licenses will be made available to all hunters on a first-come, first-served basis. A person may purchase only one license for the spring turkey hunting season.

These spring hunting season adjustments help meet the demand for additional hunting opportunities while meeting hunter satisfaction and approval.

Recommendation:

This order was submitted for information on October 11, 2007, at the Natural Resources Commission Meeting. This item appeared on the Department's October 1, 2007 calendar and may be eligible for approval on November 8, 2007.

Douglas A. Reeves, Acting Chief
Wildlife Division

Rodney Stokes, Acting Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation

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

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. 17 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 orders that, effective November 9, 2007, the following sections of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

Chapter III -- Species Regulations

3.300a Wild turkey population, harvest quotas.

Sec 3.300a. (1) The spring wild turkey hunt seasons and quotas for general licenses valid on all land within the listed unit shall be as follows:

SPRING WILD TURKEY HUNT SEASONS AND QUOTAS LIMITED QUOTA HUNT PERIODS General Licenses

HUNT NUMBERS	OPEN UNIT	MAXIMUM LICENSE QUOTA
101	A ¹	5,500
102	E ²	850
103	E ³	850
104	F ²	2,500
105	F ³	2,500
106	J ²	2,000
107	J ³	2,000
108	K ²	4,000
109	K ³	4,500
110	M ⁴	8,000
111	ZA ²	1,200
112	ZA ³	1,200
113	ZA ⁵	1,200
114	ZA ⁶	1,200
115	ZB ²	400
116	ZB ³	450
117	ZB ⁵	450
118	ZB ⁶	450
119	ZC ²	500
120	ZC ³	500
121	ZC ⁵	500
122	ZC ⁶	500
123	ZD ²	10
124	ZD ³	10
125	ZD ⁵	10
126	ZD ⁶	10

127	ZE ²	500
128	ZE ³	500
129	ZE ⁵	500
130	ZE ⁶	500
131	ZF ²	1,300
132	ZF ³	1,300
133	ZF ⁷	3000

¹ Season begins on Monday closest to April 20 and continues for 14 days.

² Season begins on Monday closest to April 20 and continues for 7 days.

³ Season begins 7 days after the Monday closest to April 20 and continues for 7 days.

⁴ Season begins on the Monday closest to April 20 and continues through May 31.

⁵ Season begins 14 days after the Monday closest to April 20 and continues for 7 days.

⁶ Season begins 21 days after the Monday closest to April 20 and continues through May 31.

⁷ Season begins 14 days after the Monday closest to April 20 and continues through May 31.

(2) The spring wild turkey hunt seasons and 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, shall be as follows:

LIMITED QUOTA HUNT PERIODS
Private Land Only Licenses

HUNT NUMBERS	OPEN UNIT	OPEN SEASON	MAXIMUM LICENSE QUOTA
301	ZZ ¹	Apr 21 - May 4	65,000

¹ Season begins on Monday closest to April 20 and continues for 14 days.

(3) All applicants for hunt number 234 (Open season-season begins 14 days after the Monday closest to April 20 and continues through May 31), shall be guaranteed a statewide hunting license valid on all land ownerships in spring turkey management units, except public lands in southern lower peninsula wild turkey management unit (unit ZZ). Applicants for hunt number 234 may hunt Fort Custer military land with permission.

(4) Hunt number 234 may be purchased during the application period, selected by the applicant as a choice during the application period, or purchased by an applicant that was not chosen in the license lottery. Individuals who purchase the hunt number 234 license during the application period will not be charged the \$4.00 application fee. After the application period, hunt number 234 will be available to unsuccessful applicants only.

(5) If any limited quota licenses remain after the drawing, unsuccessful applicants may purchase one leftover license on a first-come, first-served basis for a one-week period. Any quota licenses that remain after this one-week period will be made available to all hunters on a first-come, first-served basis.

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

(7) It is unlawful to purchase more than one Michigan spring turkey hunting license.

Chapter XII -- Management Areas Defined

12.602 "Spring wild turkey management unit A" defined.

Sec. 12.602. "Spring wild turkey management unit A" means all of Alpena, Montmorency, and Presque Isle counties and those portions of northern Alcona and northern Oscoda counties bounded by a line beginning in eastern Alcona county at a point offshore in Lake Huron located due east from the end of highway M-72 in Harrisville, then due west to the eastern end of M-72, westerly on M-72 into Oscoda county to the city of Fairview and the intersection with highway M-33, northerly on M-33 to the Oscoda county line, easterly on the northern Oscoda county line to the northern Alcona county line, then east on the Alcona county line to the Lake Huron shore, then due east into Lake Huron, and south to the point of beginning.

12.603 Repealed.

Publisher's Note: the repealed section pertained to section 12.603 "Spring wild turkey management unit B" defined

12.606 "Spring wild turkey management unit E" defined.

Sec. 12.606. "Spring wild turkey management unit E" means all of Arenac, Gladwin, and Clare counties.

12.607 "Spring wild turkey management unit F" defined.

Sec. 12.607. "Spring wild turkey management unit F" means all of Crawford, Iosco, Ogemaw, and Roscommon counties and those portions of southern Alcona and southern Oscoda counties bounded by a line beginning in eastern Alcona county at a point offshore in Lake Huron located due east from the end of highway M-72 in Harrisville, then due west to the eastern end of M-72, westerly on M-72 into Oscoda county to the city of Fairview and the intersection with highway M-33, northerly on M-33 to the Oscoda county line, westerly on the northern Oscoda county line to western Oscoda county line, southerly on the western Oscoda county line to the southern Oscoda county line, easterly on the southern Oscoda county line to the southern Alcona county line, then east on the southern Alcona county line to the Lake Huron shore, then due east into Lake Huron, and north to the point of beginning.

12.610 "Spring wild turkey management unit J" defined.

Sec. 12.610. "Spring wild turkey management unit J" means all of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties, and Bois Blanc island (including Gull island, Sand island, and all other small islands within quarter mile of Bois Blanc island) in Mackinac county.

12.619 "Spring wild turkey management unit UX" defined.

Sec. 12.619. "Spring wild turkey management unit UX" means all of the upper peninsula except that portion defined in section 12.613 "Spring wild turkey management unit M" and that portion of the upper peninsula defined in section 12.610 "Spring wild turkey management unit J".

12.627 Repealed.

Publisher's note: the repealed section pertained to section 12.627 "Spring wild turkey management unit AA" defined

Issued this 8th day of November, 2007.

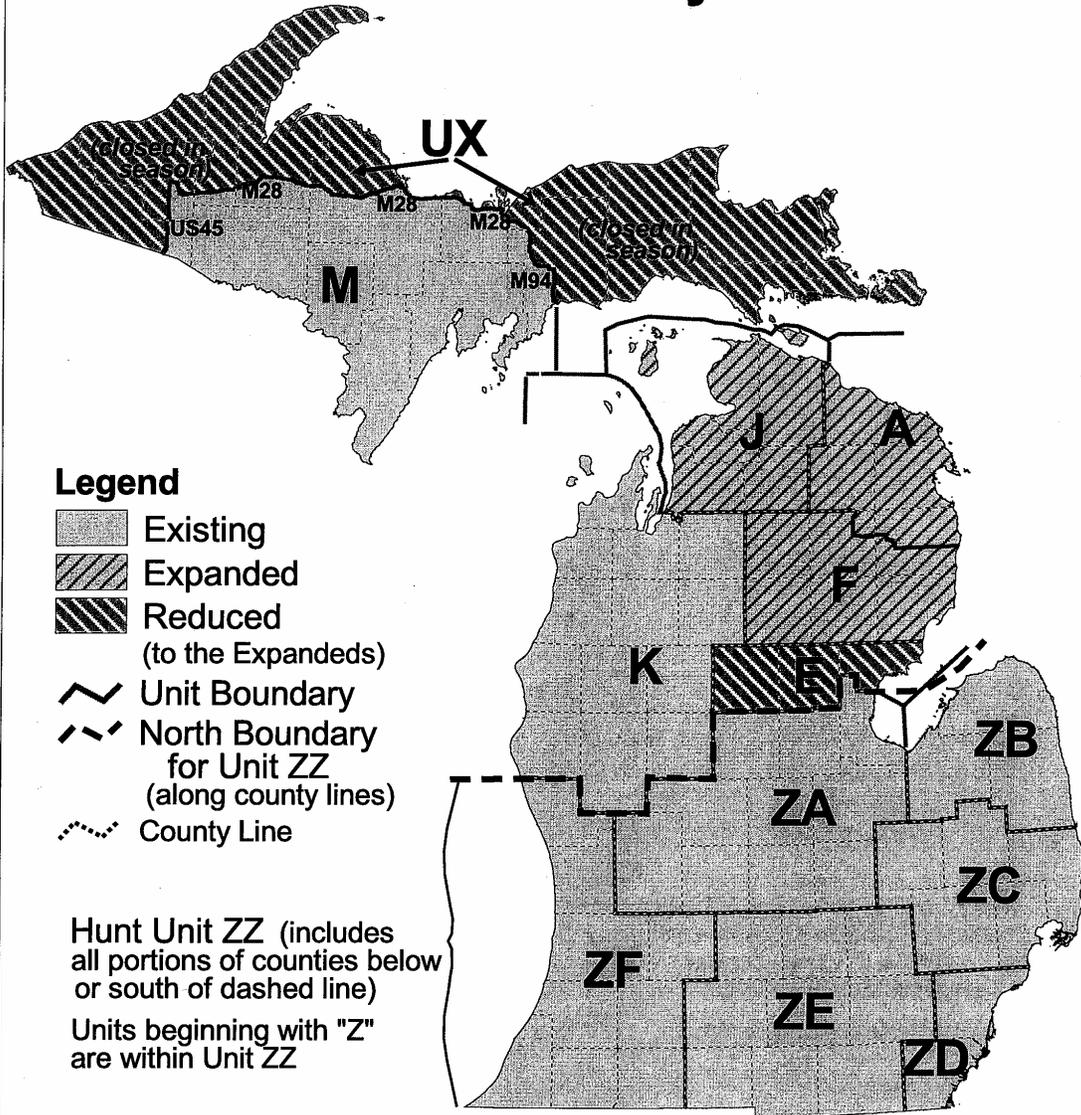
Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Keith J. Charters, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

Proposed 2008 Spring Turkey Hunt Units



Legend

-  Existing
-  Expanded
-  Reduced
(to the Expandeds)
-  Unit Boundary
-  North Boundary
for Unit ZZ
(along county lines)
-  County Line

Hunt Unit ZZ (includes all portions of counties below or south of dashed line)

Units beginning with "Z" are within Unit ZZ



Michigan
Department of
Natural Resources
Wildlife Division
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