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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT
LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: September 13, 2010
RESUBMITTED: October 11, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Spring Wild Turkey Season Units
Wildlife Conservation Order, Amendment No. 18 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:

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 public and private land in order to widely disperse hunters to provide a quality recreational experience. As wild turkey populations have flourished, turkey hunters and private landowners have requested greater flexibility in areas where they can hunt. The proposed recommendations are similar to last year and are an effort to provide additional recreational opportunity without impacting the quality of spring turkey hunting.

For the 2011 spring turkey season, a total of 114,290 licenses (49,290 General, 65,000 Private) will be made available through a lottery during the hunter limited hunt periods. Approximately 56,433 square miles of area will be open to wild turkey hunting.

In the Upper Peninsula (UP), Hunt Unit M has been expanded to include the entire UP. Bois Blanc Island is part of Mackinaw County and is proposed to be incorporated into Hunt Unit M rather than being included in Hunt Unit J, as in the past. This change has strong public support and will provide increased flexibility for UP hunters.

During the spring turkey application period, hunters may apply for a limited quota license or purchase a Guaranteed Hunt Period (GHP) license (Hunt Number 234). Applicants may select a first and second hunt choice on their applications. Each successful applicant may purchase one license. The GHP will be comparable to last year in season structure. License availability for the GHP will be expanded to allow purchase through May 1. Individuals who purchase the GHP license during this period will not be charged the \$4.00 application fee. A person may purchase only one license for the spring turkey hunting season.

Spring Wild Turkey Season Units
Wildlife Conservation Order, Amendment No. 18 of 2010
Page 2
October 11, 2010

These spring hunting season adjustments help meet the demand for additional hunting opportunities while meeting hunter satisfaction and approval. Based on the satisfaction of Michigan turkey hunters and the desire to maintain stability, regulations are proposed to remain constant for up to three years.

Recommendation:

This order was submitted for information and consideration at the October 2010 Natural Resources Commission Meeting. This item appeared on the Department's September 2010 calendar and may be eligible for approval on November 4, 2010.

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forestry Management Division

Kelley D. Smith, Ph.D., Chief
Fisheries Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Recreation Division

Mindy 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. 18 of 2010

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 November 5, 2010, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

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	600
120	ZC ³	600
121	ZC ⁵	600
122	ZC ⁶	600
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	3,000

- 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	MAXIMUM LICENSE QUOTA
301	ZZ ¹	65,000

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

(3) Hunt number 234 begins 14 days after the Monday closest to April 20 and continues through May 31. Licenses for hunt number 234 are valid on all land ownerships in spring turkey management units, except public lands in southern lower peninsula wild turkey management unit (unit ZZ). Individuals who possess a VALID license for hunt number 234 may hunt Fort Custer military land with permission.

(4) A person may purchase a license for hunt number 234 beginning the first day of the application period through May 1; no application fee will be charged. Hunt 234 may also be selected as a first or second hunt choice on a spring turkey application; in this case, a \$4 application fee will be charged.

(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.

12.610 "Spring wild turkey management unit J" defined.

Sec. 12.610 "Spring wild turkey management unit J" means all of Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, and Otsego counties.

12.613 "Spring wild turkey management unit M" defined.

Sec. 12.613 "Spring wild turkey management unit M" means all of Michigan's upper peninsula.

Issued this 4th day of November, 2010.

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

Timothy L. Nichols, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director